This is a digital copy of a book that was preserved for generations on library shelves before it was carefully scanned by Google as part of a project to make the world's books discoverable online.

It has survived long enough for the copyright to expire and the book to enter the public domain. A public domain book is one that was never subject to copyright or whose legal copyright term has expired. Whether a book is in the public domain may vary country to country. Public domain books are our gateways to the past, representing a wealth of history, culture and knowledge that's often difficult to discover.

Marks, notations and other marginalia present in the original volume will appear in this file - a reminder of this book's long journey from the publisher to a library and finally to you.

Usage guidelines

Google is proud to partner with libraries to digitize public domain materials and make them widely accessible. Public domain books belong to the public and we are merely their custodians. Nevertheless, this work is expensive, so in order to keep providing this resource, we have taken steps to prevent abuse by commercial parties, including placing technical restrictions on automated querying.

We also ask that you:

+ *Make non-commercial use of the files* We designed Google Book Search for use by individuals, and we request that you use these files for personal, non-commercial purposes.

+ *Refrain from automated querying* Do not send automated queries of any sort to Google's system: If you are conducting research on machine translation, optical character recognition or other areas where access to a large amount of text is helpful, please contact us. We encourage the use of public domain materials for these purposes and may be able to help.

+ *Maintain attribution* The Google "watermark" you see on each file is essential for informing people about this project and helping them find additional materials through Google Book Search. Please do not remove it.

+ *Keep it legal* Whatever your use, remember that you are responsible for ensuring that what you are doing is legal. Do not assume that just because we believe a book is in the public domain for users in the United States, that the work is also in the public domain for users in other countries. Whether a book is still in copyright varies from country to country, and we can't offer guidance on whether any specific use of any specific book is allowed. Please do not assume that a book's appearance in Google Book Search means it can be used in any manner anywhere in the world. Copyright infringement liability can be quite severe.

About Google Book Search

Google's mission is to organize the world's information and to make it universally accessible and useful. Google Book Search helps readers discover the world's books while helping authors and publishers reach new audiences. You can search through the full text of this book on the web at `http://books.google.com/`

KFD
1611
.A3
1848

THE BLACK CODE
OF THE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

SNETHEN

gift of
Ida Wehner

[redacted]

gift of
Ida Wehner

STANFORD UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

THE

BLACK CODE

OF THE

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,

IN FORCE

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
LAW
DEPARTMENT.
CITY OF WASHINGTON

SEPTEMBER 1st, 1848.

BY

WORTHINGTON G. SNETHEN,
COUNSELLOR AT LAW.

NEW YORK:
PUBLISHED FOR THE A. & F. ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY.
BY WILLIAM HARNED, 61 JOHN STREET.

1848.

Law Office
American
7
" Southern

ENTERED according to Act of Congress, in the year 1848, by

WILLIAM HARNED,
For the A. and F. Anti-Slavery Society.
In the Clerk's Office of the District Court of the United States for the South District of New York.

CONTENTS.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

CHAP.		PAGE.
I.	Grant to Congress of exclusive legislation over the District of Columbia	7
II.	Extension of the Laws of Maryland over the District of Columbia	7
III.	Enticing, transporting, or secretly carrying or sending away slaves—how punished	8
IV.	Reward for taking up runaways	8
V.	Dealing with slaves without license from their masters—prohibited	8
VI.	Masters prohibited from maltreating their servants, and how servants may be corrected by the public magistrate	9
VII.	Who shall be slaves	9
VIII.	Baptism no title to freedom	10
IX.	Marrying slaves with white persons—how punished	10
X.	Penalty against illicit intercourse between colored and white persons	10
XI.	Punishment of slaves for carrying weapons	11
XII.	When the evidence of colored persons may be admitted, and when not	11
XIII.	Penalty against intermarriages between colored persons and white persons	11
XIV.	Slaves guilty of pilfering and stealing—how punished	12
XV.	How apprehended runaway slaves shall be disposed of	12
XVI	Slaves caught away from their homes—how punished	13
XVII.	Punishment of slaves for striking white persons	14
XVIII.	Penalty against masters suffering their slaves to keep horses, cattle, or hogs	14
XIX.	When runaway slaves may be lawfully killed by their pursuers	14
XX.	Masters prohibited from allowing their slaves to break the Lord's Day	15
XXI.	Punishment of slaves convicted of petit treason, murder, or arson	15
XXII.	Slave stealing—how punished	16
XXIII.	How masters shall be paid for their slaves, when taken from them by law	16
XXIV.	Penalty against entertaining servants or slaves unlawfully absent	17
XXV.	Slaves guilty of conspiring to commit certain crimes—how punished	18
XXVI.	Slaves guilty of rambling, running away, &c.—how punished	18
XXVII.	Enticing and persuading slaves to run away—how punished	19

CHAP.		PAGE.
XXVIII.	Penalty against masters of vessels for concealing slaves on board	19
XXIX.	How slaves shall pass by gift	19
XXX.	How legal fees, arising on the public prosecution of slaves, shall be paid	20
XXXI.	Penalty against ordinary-keepers harboring and entertaining slaves, or selling liquor to slaves without license	20
XXXII.	Slaves capitally convicted may be pardoned	20
XXXIII.	Penalty against masters for permitting their slaves to hire themselves, and against hiring such slaves	21
XXXIV.	Servants or slaves prohibited from killing deer at stated periods	21
XXXV.	When slaves may be imported, and when not	22
XXXVI.	Manumitted slaves not entitled to the right of suffrage or of office	24
XXXVII	How long imported persons, bound for a term of years, shall serve	25
XXXVIII.	When and how slaves may be manumitted by last will and testament, or by deed	25
XXXIX.	Abduction of colored persons—how punished	26
XL.	Penalty against importing free colored persons and selling them into slavery	27
XLI.	Masters prohibited from suffering their slaves to go at large, begging, &c.	27
XLII.	Penalty against giving away or selling certificates of freedom	28
XLIII	Penalty against giving unlawful passes to slaves or servants	29
XLIV.	Slaves prohibited from selling liquor without license	29
XLV.	Free persons of color living idle, without any visible means of subsistence, and going at large—how punished	29
XLVI.	How trials of petition for freedom shall be conducted	30
XLVII.	Slaves setting on fire woods, fences, &c.—how punished	31
XLVIII.	Persons held to labor in any State, and escaping into this District, shall be delivered up	31
XLIX.	Capital felonies not specially provided for by this act—how punished	32
L.	Whipping of free persons forbidden	32
LI.	All provisions against crimes in the District of Columbia, except such as are altered by this act, shall remain in full force	32
LII.	The punishment of slaves for offences under the laws—not changed by this act	33

CORPORATION OF WASHINGTON,

LIII.	Powers of the Corporation of the City of Washington in regard to colored persons	34
LIV.	Slaves guilty of horse-racing within three hundred yards of any house—how punished	34
LV.	Tax on slaves of residents	35
LVI.	Duty of assessors of taxes in regard to slaves	35
LVII.	Penalty against licensed drinking shops selling liquor to slaves	35
LVIII.	Punishment of slaves for bathing in certain waters between sun-rise and sun-set	35
LIX.	Punishment of slaves for maltreating horses	36
LX.	Tax on slaves of non-residents	36

CHAP.		PAGE.
LXI.	Slaves brought into this city to hire or reside, must be recorded	37
LXII.	Punishment of slaves for injuring the public pumps	37
LXIII.	Punishment of slaves for injuring any enclosures of the wall	37
LXIV.	Terms upon which free colored persons are permitted to reside in the City of Washington	38
LXV.	Idle, disorderly, or tumultuous assemblages of negroes prohibited	40
LXVI.	Punishment of free colored persons for gaming	40
LXVII.	Punishment of free colored persons for having dances, &c., at their houses without license	40
LXVIII.	Free colored persons prohibited from going at large later than ten o'clock at night	41
LXIX.	Punishment of free colored persons for being found drunk, &c.	41
LXX.	Punishment of free colored persons for refusing or neglecting to pay fines imposed upon them by this act	41
LXXI.	Punishment of slaves for offences against this act	42
LXXII.	Punishment of persons of color for frequenting the Capitol square without necessary business	42
LXXIII	Punishment of slaves for creating a false alarm of fire	42
LXXIV	Punishment of slaves for setting off crackers, &c.	43
LXXV.	Punishment of slaves for breaking lamps	43
LXXVI.	The trade or traffic in slaves taxed	43
LXXVII	Penalty against ordinary-keepers for selling liquor to slaves	44
LXXVIII.	Punishment of slaves for injuring the property of the United States within the City of Washington	44
LXXIX	Punishment of slaves for injuring private houses	45
LXXX	Conditions upon which licenses shall be granted to free colored persons	45
LXXXI	Free colored persons prohibited from selling liquors, keeping taverns, &c.	45
LXXXII.	Secret, private, and religious meetings of colored persons, beyond the hour of ten at night, prohibited	46
LXXXIII.	Free persons of color permitted to keep dogs	46
LXXXIV.	Punishment of slaves for offending against the laws regulating the public markets	47
LXXXV.	Restriction upon purchasing old metals from colored persons	47

CORPORATION OF GEORGETOWN.

LXXXVI.	The powers of the Corporation of Georgetown over its inhabitants	48
LXXXVII.	Penalty against harboring, or in any way dealing unlawfully with servants or slaves	49
LXXXVIII	Punishment of slaves for fighting cocks	50
LXXXIX.	Punishment of colored persons for driving horses or carriages over the paved foot-ways of Georgetown	50
XC.	Punishment of slaves for shooting firearms	50
XCI.	Restriction upon slaves selling on the Sabbath	50
XCII.	Punishment of slaves for violating the ordinances regulating wagons, carts, and drays	51

CHAP.		PAGE.
XCIII.	Penalty against Sabbath breaking	51
XCIV.	Punishment of slaves for bathing in certain waters	52
XCV.	Punishment of slaves for horse-racing	52
XCVI.	Restriction upon corporal punishment	52
XCVII.	Conditions upon which non-residents may hire their slaves within this Corporation	52
XCVIII.	Punishment of slaves for flying kites	53
XCIX.	Punishment of slaves for violating the market ordinance	53
C.	Punishment of slaves for injuring dwelling houses, &c.	54
CI.	Terms upon which free colored persons are permitted to reside within the Corporation of Georgetown	54
CII.	Punishment of colored persons for receiving or circulating insurrectionary publications	55
CIII.	Prohibition of assemblages of colored persons	56
CIV.	Punishment of disorderly colored persons	56
CV.	Punishment of slaves for sitting, standing, or lying upon the benches or stalls of the market-house	57

THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

CHAPTER I.

GRANT TO CONGRESS, OF EXCLUSIVE LEGISLATION, OVER THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

The Congress shall have power—

16. To exercise exclusive legislation, in all cases whatsoever, over such District (not exceeding ten miles square) as may, by cession of particular states, and the acceptance of Congress, become the seat of government of the United States. *Constitution of the United States; Art.* 1, *Sect.* 8.

CHAPTER II.

EXTENSION OF THE LAWS OF MARYLAND OVER THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

The operation of the laws of Maryland, within the District of Columbia, shall not be affected by the acceptance by the United States of the said District, for the permanent seat of government of the United States, until the time fixed for the removal of the seat of government to the said District, and until Congress shall, otherwise, by law, provide. *Laws of the United States*, 1790, *July* 16; *Sect.* 1.

The jurisdiction of the laws of this State, over the persons and property of individuals residing within the limits of the cession aforesaid (the County of Washington, in the District of Columbia), shall not cease or determine, until Congress shall, by law, provide for the government thereof under their jurisdiction, in manner provided by the eighth section of the first article of the Constitution of the Government of the United States. *Laws of Maryland*, 1791, *Dec.* 19; *Sect.* 2.

The laws of the State of Maryland, as they now exist, shall be and continue in force, in that part of the said District (of Columbia), which was ceded by that State to the United States, and by them accepted, for the permanent seat of government of the United States. *Laws of the United States*, 1801, *Feb.* 27; *Sect.* 1.

CHAPTER III.

ENTICING, TRANSPORTING, OR SECRETLY CARRYING OR SENDING AWAY SLAVES—HOW PUNISHED.

Whatsoever persons shall, from henceforth, entice, transport, or secretly carry or send away out of this province, any servants or slaves belonging to any inhabitant in this province, they shall, for every such offence, forfeit and pay to the employer or owner of such servant or slave, treble damages and costs, to be adjudged by the justices of each respective County Court, or the justices of the Provincial Court, for the time of such servants or slaves unlawfully being transported or carried away as aforesaid. *Laws of Maryland*, 1715; *Ch.* 19, *Sect.* 5.

CHAPTER IV.

REWARD FOR TAKING UP RUNAWAYS.

Every person, seizing or taking up runaways, shall have and receive two hundred pounds of tobacco, to be paid by the owner of such runaway servant, negro or slave, so apprehended and taken up. *Laws of Maryland*, 1715: *Ch.* 44, *Sect.* 7.

For all runaway servants or slaves, that shall be apprehended in the Province of Pennsylvania or Colony of Virginia, and from thence brought into this Province and delivered to a magistrate of the county into which they shall be brought, the person, so doing, shall have paid and allowed him, by the master or owner of every such runaway, four hundred pounds of tobacco and cask, or forty shillings in money, upon his producing a certificate from the justice or sheriff of the delivery of such runaway. *Laws of Maryland*, 1715; *Ch.* 44, *Sect.* 20.

CHAPTER V.

DEALING WITH SLAVES WITHOUT LICENSE FROM THEIR MASTERS—PROHIBITED.

No person shall trade, barter, commerce, or any way deal with any servant or slave belonging to any inhabitant of this province, without leave or license first had from such servant or slave master, mistress, dame or overseer for his or her so doing, under the penalty of two thousand pounds of tobacco, the one-half to the support of government, and the other half to the master, mistress or true owners of such goods so purloined, bartered or conveyed away, when proved by sufficient witness or confession of the party, to be recovered in any Court of Record of this province by action of debt, bill, plaint or information, wherein no essoin,

protection or wager of law shall be allowed: and, if the goods so traded or bartered shall exceed the sum of one thousand pounds of tobacco, then the party, whose goods shall be embezzled or bartered away, shall have his action at law for the damage sustained against the person so offending, dealing or bartering for the same, and in case such offenders shall not be able to satisfy the same, then they shall be bound over by some one justice of the peace and put in security to appear at the next Provincial County Court, where, upon conviction by confession or sufficient witness, the offender shall be punished by whipping on the bare back with thirty stripes. *Laws of Maryland*, 1715; *Ch.* 44, *Sect.* 11, 12, 13.

CHAPTER VI.

MASTERS PROHIBITED FROM MALTREATING THEIR SERVANTS, AND HOW SERVANTS MAY BE CORRECTED BY THE PUBLIC MAGISTRATE.

If any master or mistress of any servants whatsoever, or overseer, by order or consent of any such master or mistress, shall deny and not provide sufficient meat, drink, lodging and clothing, or shall unreasonably burthen them beyond their strength with labor, or debar them of their necessary rest and sleep, or excessively beat and abuse them, or shall give them above ten lashes for any one offence, the same being sufficiently proved before the justices of the County Courts, the said justices have hereby full power, for the first and second offence, to levy such fine upon such offender as to them shall seem meet, not exceeding one thousand pounds of tobacco, for the support of government, and for the third offence, to set such servant so wronged at liberty and free from servitude; but in case the master or owner of any such servant shall think, that such servant deserves greater correction, then the said master or owner of such servant shall or may carry them before any justice of the peace, who, hearing the complaint, shall order such correction as he shall think fit, not exceeding thirty-nine lashes for any one offence. *Laws of Maryland*, 1715; *Ch.* 44, *Sect.* 21.

CHAPTER VII.

WHO SHALL BE SLAVES.

All negroes and other slaves, already imported or hereafter to be imported into this province, and all children now born or hereafter to be born of such negroes and slaves, shall be slaves during their natural lives. *Laws of Maryland*, 1715; *Ch.* 44, *Sect.* 22.

CHAPTER VIII.

BAPTISM NO TITLE TO FREEDOM.

No negro, by receiving the sacrament of baptism, is thereby manumitted or set free, nor hath any right or title to freedom or manumission more than he or she had before. *Laws of Maryland*, 1715; *Ch.* 44, *Sect.* 23.

CHAPTER IX.

MARRYING SLAVES WITH WHITE PERSONS—HOW PUNISHED.

No minister, pastor, magistrate or other person, who, according to the laws of this province, usually joins people in marriage, shall upon any pretence join in marriage any negro whatsoever or mulatto slave with any white person, in the penalty of five thousand pounds of tobacco, the one half for the use of free schools, the other half to the informer or him who shall sue for the same, to be recovered in any court of record in this province by action of debt, bill, plaint or information, wherein no essoin, protection or wager of law shall be allowed. *Laws of Maryland*, 1715; *Ch.* 44, *Sect.* 24.

CHAPTER X.

PENALTY AGAINST ILLICIT INTERCOURSE BETWEEN COLORED AND WHITE PERSONS.

Any white woman, that shall suffer herself to be got with child by a negro or other slave or free negro shall become a servant for the term of seven years, and if such begetter of such child be a free negro, he shall become a servant for the term of seven years, to be adjudged by the justices of the County Court where such fact is committed; and any white man that shall beget any negro woman with child whether free woman or servant, shall undergo the same penalties as white women; and the times of servitude, as imposed upon the said offenders, shall be disposed of or employed as the justices of such county shall think fit, the produce whereof shall be appropriated towards defraying the county charge. *Laws of Maryland*, 1715; *Ch.* 44, *Sect.* 25, 26, 27.

Free mulatto women having bastard children by negroes and other slaves, either within or after their time of service, and free negro women having bastard children by white men, shall be subject to the same penalties that white women are, for having mulatto bastards or bastards by negro men. *Laws of Maryland*, 1728; *Ch.* 4, *Sect.* 2, 3.

CHAPTER XI.

PUNISHMENT OF SLAVES FOR CARRYING WEAPONS

No negro or other slave within this province shall be permitted to carry any gun or any other offensive weapon from off their master's land, without license from their said master, and if any negro or other slave shall presume to do so, he shall be liable to be carried before a Justice of the Peace and be whipped, and his gun or other offensive weapon shall be forfeited to him that shall seize the same and carry such negro so offending before a Justice of the Peace. *Laws of Maryland*, 1715; *Ch.* 44, *Sect.* 32.

CHAPTER XII.

WHEN THE EVIDENCE OF COLORED PERSONS MAY BE ADMITTED AND WHEN NOT.

No negro or mulatto slave, free negro or mulatto, born of a white woman, during his time of servitude, by law in this province, shall be admitted and received as good and valid evidence in law, in any matter or thing whatsoever depending before any court of record or before any magistrate within this province, wherein any Christian white person is concerned; but where other sufficient evidence is wanting against any negro or mulatto slaves, free negro or mulatto born of a white woman, during their servitude by law, in such case, the testimony of any negro or mulatto slave, free negro or mulatto born of a white woman, may be heard and received as evidence, according to the discretion of the several Courts of Record or magistrate before whom such a matter or thing shall depend, provided, such evidence do not extend to the depriving any of them of life or member. *Laws of Maryland*, 1717; *Ch.* 13, *Sect.* 2, 3.

No slave manumitted agreeably to the laws of this state, shall be entitled to give evidence against any white person, or shall be received as competent evidence to manumit any slave petitioning for his freedom. *Laws of Maryland*, 1796; *Ch.* 67, *Sect.* 5.

CHAPTER XIII.

PENALTY AGAINST INTERMARRIAGES BETWEEN COLORED PERSONS AND WHITE PERSONS.

If any free negro or mulatto intermarry with any white woman, or if any white man shall intermarry with any negro or mulatto woman, such

negro or mulatto shall become a slave during life, excepting mulattoes born of white women, who, for such intermarriage, shall only become servants for seven years, to be disposed of as the justices of the County Court where such marriage so happens, shall think fit, for the support of a public school in said county; and any white man or white woman, who shall intermarry with any negro or mulatto, shall become servants for the term of seven years, and shall be disposed of by the justices as aforesaid and be applied to the uses aforesaid. *Laws of Maryland*, 1717; *Ch.* 13, *Sect.* 5.

CHAPTER XIV.

SLAVES GUILTY OF PILFERING AND STEALING—HOW PUNISHED.

Whenever any negro or mulatto slave shall hereafter be charged with any pilfering or stealing, or any other crime or misdemeanor whereof the County Court might have cognizance, it shall be lawful for any one of the justices of the Provincial or County Courts, upon complaint made before him, to cause such negro or runaway slave so offending, to be brought immediately before him or any other Justice of the Peace for the County where such offence is committed, who, upon due proof made against such negro or mulatto slave of any of the crimes aforesaid, is hereby authorized and empowered to award and to cause to be inflicted, according to the nature of the crime, such punishment by whipping as he shall think fit, not exceeding forty lashes. *Laws of Maryland*, 1717; *Ch.* 13, *Sect.* 6.

CHAPTER XV.

HOW APPREHENDED RUNAWAY SLAVES SHALL BE DISPOSED OF.

Every sheriff, that shall have committed to his custody any runaway servants or slaves, after one month's notice given to the master or owner thereof of their being in his custody if living in this province, or two months' notice if living in any of the neighboring provinces, if such master or owner of such servants or slaves do not appear, within the time limited as aforesaid, and pay or secure to be paid all such imprisonment fees due to such sheriff from the time of the commitment of such servants or slaves, and also such other charges as have accrued or become due to any person for taking up such runaway, is hereby authorized and required, upon the expiration of such time aforesaid, immediately to give public notice to all persons, by setting up notes at the Church and Court-house doors of the county where such servant or slave is in custody, of the time and place for sale of such servants or slaves, by him to be appointed, not less than ten days after the expiration of the time limited as aforesaid, and at such time and place so appointed by him to proceed to sell and dispose of such

servant or slave to the highest bidder, and out of the money or tobacco which such servant or slave is sold for, to pay himself all such imprisonment fees as are his just dues for the time he has kept such servant or slave in his custody, and also to pay such other charges, fees or reward as have become due to any person for taking up such runaway servant or slave, and after such payments made, if any residue shall remain of the money or tobacco such servant or slave was sold for, such sheriff shall only be accountable to the master or owner of such servant or slave for such residue or remainder; and, in case any sheriff or the buyer of such servant or slave, or others concerned in the execution of this act, shall be sued by any persons for any matter or thing done or to be done in pursuance hereof, it shall be lawful for every such person so sued to plead the general issue and give this Act and the special matter in evidence, and in case of non-suit, discontinuance or verdict against the plaintiff, the court shall award double costs of suit. *Laws of Maryland*, 1719; *Ch.* 2, *Sect.* 2, 3.

CHAPTER XVI.

SLAVES CAUGHT AWAY FROM THEIR HOMES—HOW PUNISHED.

Every constable shall be obliged to repair once a month to all suspected places within his hundred, and if at any such place he shall find any negroes or other slaves, besides the negroes or other slaves belonging to the owner of such place, not having a license under their owner or overseer's hand, it shall be lawful for the constable and he is required to whip every such negro on the bare back, at his discretion, not exceeding thirty-nine lashes; and all negroes and other slaves belonging to the owner of the place where such assembly shall be, if required, shall aid and assist the constable in putting this act in execution, on pain of being whipped, each of them, with thirty-nine lashes on the bare back: and the owner of any plantation, that shall at any time discover any strange negro or other slaves upon such plantation, unless they are sent by their owners on lawful occasions, shall warn such negroes or other slaves to be gone home to their masters or owners, and any negroes or other slaves refusing or delaying so to do, it shall be lawful for the owner of such plantation to correct by whipping not exceeding thirty-nine lashes; and any person that shall wittingly encourage any negro or other slaves to meet in companies on his or her plantation, unless on lawful occasions, shall forfeit and pay, for every such offence, one thousand pounds of tobacco, one-half to the use of the county and half to the informer. *Laws of Maryland*, 1723; *Ch.* 15, *Sect.* 2, 3, 5.

CHAPTER XVII.

PUNISHMENT OF SLAVES FOR STRIKING WHITE PERSONS.

If any negro or other slave shall strike any white person, it shall be lawful upon proof being made thereof, either by the oath of the party so struck or otherwise, before any Justice of the Peace, for such justice to cause one of the negro or other slave's ears, so offending, to be cropt. *Laws of Maryland*, 1723; *Ch.* 15, *Sect.* 4.

CHAPTER XVIII.

PENALTY AGAINST MASTERS' SUFFERING THEIR SLAVES TO KEEP HORSES, CATTLE OR HOGS.

Any master or owner of any negro or other slaves, that shall suffer any such slaves to them belonging, to keep any horses or mares, or to raise any cattle or hogs, as the proper right of such slaves, shall forfeit and pay five hundred pounds of tobacco, one half to the use of the county and one half to the informer, and also all such horses, mares, cattle and hogs shall likewise be forfeited, to be applied in the same manner. *Laws of Maryland*, 1723; *Ch.* 15, *Sect.* 6.

CHAPTER XIX.

WHEN RUNAWAY SLAVES MAY BE LAWFULLY KILLED BY THEIR PURSUERS.

If any negro or other slaves, absenting themselves from their master's service, running out into the woods and there remaining, killing and destroying hogs and cattle belonging to the people of this province, shall refuse to surrender themselves and make resistance against such persons as pursue to apprehend and take them up, being thereunto legally empowered, it shall be lawful for such pursuers, when such resistance is made, to shoot, kill and destroy such negroes or other slaves. *Laws of Maryland*, 1723; *Ch.* 15, *Sect.* 7.

If any slave shall happen to be slain, for refusing to surrender him or herself contrary to law, or in unlawful resisting any officer or other person who shall apprehend or endeavor to apprehend such slave, such officer or other person so killing such slave shall be indemnified from any prosecution for such killing. *Laws of Maryland*, 1751; *Ch.* 14, *Sect.* 9.

Nothing in the Act of 1751, ch. 14, contained, shall be construed to indemnify any officer or other person, killing any slave resisting or refusing to surrender, from undergoing a legal trial, but it shall be lawful for any such officer or person, upon his or her trial for killing any slave, to

give this and the above recited Act in evidence, upon *not guilty* being pleaded, and if it shall appear upon the evidence, that such killing was done in the lawful execution and in pursuance of the aforesaid act, then such person so killing as aforesaid shall be acquitted, and discharged thereof and from all penalties, and forfeitures and punishments for such killing; and where any person shall be prosecuted for killing a slave resisting, the public of this province shall pay such person the costs and charges which he may be at because of such prosecution. *Laws of Maryland*, 1753; *Ch.* 26, *Sect.* 2. 3.

CHAPTER XX.

MASTERS PROHIBITED FROM ALLOWING THEIR SLAVES TO BREAK THE LORD'S DAY.

No person having servants or slaves shall command, or wittingly or willingly suffer any of them to do any manner of work or labor on the Lord's Day (works of charity and necessity always excepted), or shall suffer or permit them to profane the Lord's Day, by gaming, fishing, fowling, hunting or unlawful pastimes or recreations; and every person transgressing this Act, and being convict thereof, on the oath of one sufficient witness or confession before a single magistrate, shall forfeit two hundred pounds of tobacco, for the use of the county. *Laws of Maryland*, 1723; *Ch.* 16, *Sect.* 10.

CHAPTER XXI.

PUNISHMENT OF SLAVES CONVICTED OF PETIT TREASON, MURDER, OR ARSON.

When any negro or other slave shall be convict, by confession or verdict of a jury, of any petit treason or murder or wilfully burning of dwelling houses, it shall be lawful for the justices, before whom such conviction shall be, to give judgment against such negro or other slave, to have the right hand cut off, to be hanged in the usual manner, the head severed from the body, the body divided into four quarters, the head and quarters set up in the most public places of the county where such fact was committed. *Laws of Maryland*, 1729; *Ch.* 4, *Sect.* 2.

give this and the above recited Act in evidence, upon *not guilty* being pleaded, and if it shall appear upon the evidence, that such killing was done in the lawful execution and in pursuance of the aforesaid act, then such person so killing as aforesaid shall be acquitted, and discharged thereof and from all penalties, and forfeitures and punishments for such killing; and where any person shall be prosecuted for killing a slave resisting, the public of this province shall pay such person the costs and charges which he may be at because of such prosecution. *Laws of Maryland*, 1753; *Ch.* 26, *Sect.* 2. 3.

CHAPTER XX.

MASTERS PROHIBITED FROM ALLOWING THEIR SLAVES TO BREAK THE LORD'S DAY.

No person having servants or slaves shall command, or wittingly or willingly suffer any of them to do any manner of work or labor on the Lord's Day (works of charity and necessity always excepted), or shall suffer or permit them to profane the Lord's Day, by gaming, fishing, fowling, hunting or unlawful pastimes or recreations; and every person transgressing this Act, and being convict thereof, on the oath of one sufficient witness or confession before a single magistrate, shall forfeit two hundred pounds of tobacco, for the use of the county. *Laws of Maryland*, 1723; *Ch.* 16, *Sect.* 10.

CHAPTER XXI.

PUNISHMENT OF SLAVES CONVICTED OF PETIT TREASON, MURDER, OR ARSON.

When any negro or other slave shall be convict, by confession or verdict of a jury, of any petit treason or murder or wilfully burning of dwelling houses, it shall be lawful for the justices, before whom such conviction shall be, to give judgment against such negro or other slave, to have the right hand cut off, to be hanged in the usual manner, the head severed from the body, the body divided into four quarters, the head and quarters set up in the most public places of the county where such fact was committed. *Laws of Maryland*, 1729; *Ch.* 4, *Sect.* 2.

CHAPTER XXII.

SLAVE-STEALING—HOW PUNISHED.

Any person, who shall steal any negro or other slave, or who shall counsel, hire, aid, abet, or command any person to commit said offence, or who shall be accessary to said offence, and shall be legally convicted thereof or out-lawed, or who shall obstinately or of malice stand mute or peremptorily challenge above twenty, shall suffer death as a felon without benefit of clergy. *Laws of Maryland*, 1737; *Ch.* 2, *Sect.* 4.

CHAPTER XXIII.

HOW MASTERS SHALL BE PAID FOR THEIR SLAVES, WHEN TAKEN FROM THEM BY LAW.

As often as any slave shall be convict for any offence contrary to the laws of this province, and shall be actually executed, or who shall die after condemnation and under confinement in order for execution, the owner shall be paid the full value of such slave, such slave to be adjudged by the court before whom the fact shall be tried at the time of the condemnation of such slave, and the treasurer of this province, on a certificate from the sheriff of the execution or death of such slave, shall pay the owner thereof the said value of such slave out of the public stock, without fee or reward. *Laws of Maryland*, 1737; *Ch.* 2, *Sect.* 5, 6.

When any slave shall be condemned to suffer death, such slave shall be valued by the justices of assize or either of them then present or County Court, according to the best of their knowledge, which said whole value shall be paid by the treasurer on the certificate of the sheriff out of the public stock, without fee or reward, to the master or owner of such slave, in case such slave be actually executed. *Laws of Maryland*, 1751; *Ch.* 14, *Sect.* 7.

Whenever any slave shall be killed for unlawfully refusing to surrender himself or herself, or in unlawfully resisting any officer or other person who shall apprehend or endeavor to apprehend such slave, such slave shall be valued by two respectable persons, to be appointed by the then nearest magistrate and not being of kin to the master or owner of such slave, upon oath to be administered to them "well and truly to value what such slave was worth to the best of their knowledge, without favor or partiality," and the whole value of such slave shall be certified by the said valuers to such magistrate, and the same shall be paid to the owner of such slave or the owner's order, by the treasurer of this province, on the magistrate's certificate of the death and value of said slave, out of the public stock, without fee or reward. *Laws of Maryland*, 1751; *Ch.* 14, *Sect.* 9.

Where any money shall be paid by virtue of law for any slave, who shall die in jail after sentence or shall be executed, such payment sh

CHAPTER XXV.

SLAVES GUILTY OF CONSPIRING TO COMMIT CERTAIN CRIMES—HOW PUNISHED.

If any slave shall, at any time, consult, advise, conspire or attempt to raise any insurrection, within this province, or to murder or poison any person whatsoever, or to commit a rape upon any white woman, or to burn any house, and be thereof convict by confession or verdict, or shall of malice stand mute or peremptorily challenge above the number of twenty jurors, such slave shall suffer death as in cases of felony without benefit of clergy; and any slave, who shall attempt to burn any dwelling-house or out-house contiguous to or used with any dwelling-house, or any other house wherein there shall be any person or any goods, merchandises, indian corn or other grain or fodder, and shall be thereof convict as aforesaid, shall suffer death as a felon without benefit of clergy; and every slave, committing any of the felonies herein-before mentioned, or any other offence, which may, by law, subject such slaves to the pains of death, shall be committed to the sheriff of the county where the offence shall be committed, and the next assizes or County Court, which shall first happen, shall, by virtue of this act, try every such offender according to law, and, upon the conviction of such offender, upon his or her voluntary confession, or the verdict of a jury, upon the testimony of one legal or credible witness or more, or even the testimony of other slaves, corroborated with such pregnant circumstances as shall convince and satisfy the jury who shall try the fact of the guilt of such offender, shall give judgment according to the nature and quality of the offence. *Laws of Maryland*, 1751; *Ch.* 14, *Sect.* 2, 3, 4.

CHAPTER XXVI.

SLAVES GUILTY OF RAMBLING, RUNNING AWAY, &c.—HOW PUNISHED.

Where any slave shall be guilty of rambling, riding or going abroad in the night, or riding horses in the day time without leave, or running away, it shall be lawful for the justices of the County Court and they are obliged, upon the application or complaint of the master or owner of such slave, or to the order of such master or owner, or on the application or complaint of any other person who shall be any ways damnified or injured by such slave, immediately such slave to punish by whipping, cropping, or branding in the cheek with the letter R or otherwise, not extending to life or to render such slave unfit for labor. *Laws of Maryland*, 1751; *Ch.* 14, *Sect* 8.

CHAPTER XXVII.

ENTICING AND PERSUADING SLAVES TO RUN AWAY—HOW PUNISHED.

If any free person shall entice and persuade any slave within this province, to run away, and such slave shall actually run away from the master, owner or overseer thereof, by confession or verdict of a jury upon an indictment or information, such free person shall forfeit and pay the full value of such slave to the master or owner thereof, to be levied by execution on the goods, chattels, lands or tenements of the offender, and in case of inability to pay the same, shall suffer one year's imprisonment without bail. *Laws of Maryland*, 1751; *Ch.* 14, *Sect.* 10.

CHAPTER XXVIII.

PENALTY AGAINST MASTERS OF VESSELS FOR CONCEALING SLAVES ON BOARD.

No master of a vessel coming into this province and entering to trade therein, shall suffer any slave or servant to frequent his vessel or come on board, or shall conceal such servant or slave on board his ship, and, in case any servant or slave shall be kept or concealed on board any ship or vessel coming into and trading within this province, for the space of one hour or longer, the master or commandant of such ship or vessel shall forfeit and pay, at the rate of twenty shillings current money, for every hour such servant or slave shall be suffered to frequent his vessel and be kept or concealed on board thereof, to the party owning such servant or slave, the same to be recovered in a summary way before one justice of the peace with costs; *Provided*, it shall be lawful for any master or owner of such ship or vessel trading within this province, to hire any servant or slave from any inhabitant of this province to work on board such ship or vessel. *Laws of Maryland*, 1753; *Ch.* 9, *Sect.* 3, 4.

CHAPTER XXIX.

HOW SLAVES SHALL PASS BY GIFT.

No negro or other slave whereof the donor shall retain the use and possession, shall pass, alter or change, or any property thereof, be transferred to any donee, unless the gift be by writing, under the hand and seal of the donor, and acknowledged before one provincial justice or one justice of the county where the donor shall reside, and recorded in the records of the same county within twenty days from the time of the execution thereof; *Provided*, that nothing herein contained, shall extend or

be construed to extend, to make void any parol-gift of any negro or other slave, where there shall be an express delivery of such slave, in pursuance of such gift, and where the sole use and possession of the same shall be transferred to the donee, nor to make void any bequest of any negro or other slave by any last will and testament. *Laws of Maryland*, 1763; *Ch.* 13, *Sect.* 2, 3.

CHAPTER XXX.

HOW LEGAL FEES, ARISING ON THE PUBLIC PROSECUTION OF SLAVES, SHALL BE PAID.

All legal fees, which shall arise on the prosecution of any negro or other slave in any court, whether such slave shall be acquitted or convicted, shall be chargeable to and paid by the county where such prosecution shall be had, and be assessed in the county levy of such county. *Laws of Maryland*, 1765; *Ch.* 6.

CHAPTER XXXI.

PENALTY AGAINST ORDINARY-KEEPERS HARBORING AND ENTERTAINING SLAVES, OR SELLING LIQUOR TO SLAVES WITHOUT LICENSE.

If any ordinary-keeper shall harbor, entertain or sell any liquor to any slave, without license in writing first had and obtained from the master, mistress or owner of such slave, such ordinary-keeper shall, for every such offence, forfeit and pay one hundred and sixty pounds of tobacco to the master, mistress or owner of such slave, to be recovered with costs, upon complaint of the said master, mistress or owner before a justice of the county where such ordinary-keeper lives. *Laws of Maryland*, 1780; *Ch.* 24, *Sect.* 17.

CHAPTER XXXII.

SLAVES CAPITALLY CONVICTED MAY BE PARDONED.

The governor of this state may, in his discretion, grant to any offender capitally convicted a pardon on condition, and if such offender be a slave and the condition of such pardon shall be, leaving this state or transportation, the governor may direct the sheriff, in whose custody such offender shall be, to contract and take proper security for the transportation of such slave, agreeably to the condition of his pardon, and the sheriff may either

sell such slave subject to such condition, or empower some other person to sell him in the place to which he shall be transported, for the benefit of the state, and the owner of such slave shall be paid as if the same slave had been executed. *Laws of Maryland*, 1787; *Ch.* 17, *Sect.* 3.

The governor shall have full power and authority to commute or change any sentence or judgment of death, passed on any criminal slave, into transportation and sale in some foreign country, for the benefit of the state. *Laws of Maryland*, 1795; *Ch.* 82, *Sect.* 2.

CHAPTER XXXIII.

PENALTY AGAINST MASTERS FOR PERMITTING THEIR SLAVES TO HIRE THEMSELVES AND AGAINST HIRING SUCH SLAVES.

Any person, who shall permit and authorize any slave belonging to him or herself in his or her own right, or possessed in the right of another, to go at large or hire him or herself, shall incur the penalty of five pounds current money per month, except ten days at harvest; and any person, who shall hire a slave by contract with such slave, shall incur the penalty of five pounds current money per month, except as before excepted; *Provided*, that any person may permit his slave, being a pilot, to hire himself in such capacity, and any person may employ as a pilot any slave known or generally reputed to be a pilot; and all the penalties aforesaid shall be recovered before a single magistrate of the peace, in the same manner as small debts out of court are recovered, and any sum so recovered shall be to the sole use and benefit of the informer, provided the offence be sufficiently proved without his or her testimony, otherwise, such recovery shall be to the use and benefit of the poor of the county where the offence is committed. *Laws of Maryland*, 1787; *Ch.* 33, *Sect.* 1, 2, 3.

CHAPTER XXXIV.

SERVANTS OR SLAVES PROHIBITED FROM KILLING DEER AT STATED PERIODS.

If any master, mistress or overseer shall willingly suffer any servant or slave, under his or her care, or management, to hunt, kill or destroy any deer, except from the first of September to the fifteenth of December yearly, the said master, mistress or overseer so offending, shall forfeit the sum of five pounds, to be recovered in the County Court of the county where the said offence was committed, by indictment or information, one half to the use of the county and one half to the informer, and if any servant or slave do or shall hunt, kill or destroy any deer contrary hereto and without the privity and knowledge of his or her master, mistress or

overseer, and be thereof convicted before a justice of the peace, such offender shall be whipped, not exceeding thirty-nine lashes, at the discretion of said justice of the peace. *Laws of Maryland*, 1789; *Ch.* 5, *Sect.* 3.

CHAPTER XXXV.

WHEN SLAVES MAY BE IMPORTED AND WHEN NOT.

It shall not be lawful to import or bring into this State, by land or water, any negro, mulatto or other slave, for sale or to reside within this State; and any person brought into this State as a slave, contrary to this act, if a slave before, shall thereupon immediately cease to be the property of the person so importing or bringing such slave within this State and shall be free; *Provided*, That it shall be lawful for any citizen of the United States, who shall come into this State, with a *bonâ fide* intention of settling therein, to import or bring into this State, at the time of his or her removal into it, or within one year thereafter, any slave, the property of such citizen at the time of his or her said removal, which slave or the mother of which slave shall have been resident of the United States or some one of them, three whole years next preceding such removal, and the same to retain as slaves; and that nothing herein contained shall be construed to enable any person, so removing, to sell or dispose of any slave imported by virtue of this Act, or his or her increase, unless such person shall have resided within this State, three whole years next preceding such sale, except in cases of disposition by last will and testament and dispositions by law for *bonâ fide* debts, or consequent upon intestacy; and that nothing in this act contained shall be construed or taken to affect the right of any person travelling or sojourning with any slave within this State, such slave not being sold or otherwise disposed of in this State, but carried by the owner out of it or attempted to be carried. *Laws of Maryland*, 1796; *Ch.* 67, *Sect.* 1, 2, 3, 4.

If any negro or other slave hath been or may be carried out of this State, by any executor, administrator or guardian, or by any other person, during the infancy or without the consent or authority of the real owner or proprietor of such negro or other slave, it shall be lawful for such owner, at any time hereafter, to bring said negro or other slave into this State again, and to have and enjoy the said negro or other slave as his or her property. *Laws of Maryland*, 1796; *Ch.* 67, *Sect.* 7.

It shall be lawful for any citizen and resident of this State, being seized and possessed of an estate of inheritance in his own right or in the right of his wife, in land lying in any one of the adjoining States, and being the owner of any slave employed or worked on the said land, to remove and bring such slave within this State on the land of such owner for the use and benefit of the owner, his or her legal representatives, and not for sale, provided such slave hath been resident of some one of the said adjoining States before the twenty-first day of April, 1783, or is the descendant of any slave being resident as aforesaid, and provided also, that a list of all

slaves so imported, containing their names, sexes and ages, be delivered in writing and signed by the owner, his overseer or agent to the Clerk of the county in which such slaves shall be brought to reside, within three months thereafter, and the said list shall be recorded at the expense of the owner of the slaves so brought into this State, in which list of negroes so recorded, if title to them be acquired by will, the testator's name, the date of the will and the place where recorded, shall be inserted, and if the title to them be derived from marriage, the name of the married person from whom the title is derived, shall likewise be inserted in said list, and the whole entered on record; and it shall be lawful for any citizen and resident of any adjoining State, being seized and possessed of an estate of inheritance in his own right, or the right of his wife, in land lying in this State, and the owner of any slaves resident in any adjoining State, before the twenty-first day of April, 1783, or the descendants of any slaves being resident as aforesaid, to remove and bring any such slaves into this State, for the purpose of employing or working such slaves on the land of such owner within this State, for the use and benefit of the owner, his or her legal representatives, and not for sale, provided, that a list of such slaves be delivered in writing, containing the names, sexes and ages of said negroes, and signed by the owner, his overseer or agent, to the Clerk of the county in which such slaves shall be first brought to reside, within three months thereafter, and the said list shall contain a certificate as aforesaid, to be recorded at the expense of the owner of the slaves so removed into this State; and the power of removing slaves, as above allowed, may be exercised as often as the owners of such slaves shall think proper, on complying with the directions of this act; and if any citizen of this State hath acquired or shall acquire property in any slaves being resident of any of the United States before the twenty-first day of April, 1783, or in the descendants of such slaves being resident as aforesaid, by marriage, bequest, in course of distribution, or as guardian, such citizen may remove and bring such slaves into this State, for the purpose only of employing or working such slaves within this State, as hereinbefore mentioned, and not for sale, provided, that a list of such slaves be rendered in the manner herein-before directed by a citizen of this State, on his bringing into this State as herein-before allowed, and provided also, that the owner of such slaves may sell them, after such slaves have been residents for three years within this State. *Laws of Maryland*, 1796; *Ch.* 67, *Sect.* 8, 9, 10, 11.

It shall be lawful for any executor or administrator of any citizen of the United States, who shall remove into this State, with a *bona fide* intention of settling therein, and who shall have died within one year from the time of such removal, to import or bring into this State at any time within one year from the death of his testator or intestate, any slaves, the property of such citizen at the time of his or her death, which slaves or the mothers of them shall have been resident of the United States three whole years next preceding such removal, as also the issue of such slaves born after the removal of said testator or intestate; and it shall be lawful for any guardian of any infant, entitled to any slaves by or in pursuance of the last will and testament of, or in the course of distribution from, any citizen of the United States, who shall remove into this State with a *bona fide* intention of settling therein, and who shall have died within one year

from the time of his or her removal into this State, at any time within one year from the commencement of his or her guardianship, or for any such infant, if a male, at any time within one year after his arriving at the age of twenty-one years, and, if a female, at any time within one year after her arriving to the age of sixteen years, to import and bring into this State any such slaves, being the property of any such citizen at the time of his or her death, as also the issue of such slaves born after the removal of the said testator or intestate. *Laws of Maryland*, 1797; *Ch.* 18, *Sect.* 2, 3.

It shall be lawful for any citizen and resident of this state or of any adjoining state, being seized and possessed of an inheritance in his own right, or in right of his wife, in land lying in this or in any one of the adjoining states, and the owner of any slaves employed or worked on said land, to remove and bring such slaves within this state on the land of such owner, for the use and benefit of the owner, his or her legal representatives, and not for sale, provided such slaves have been resident of this or some one of the adjoining states, before the twenty-first day of April 1783, or are the descendants of any slaves being resident as aforesaid, and provided also, that a list of such slaves containing their names, sexes and ages, be delivered in writing, and signed by the owner, his overseer or agent, to the clerk of the county in which such slaves shall be brought to reside, within three months thereafter, and the said list shall be recorded at the expense of the owner of such slaves, in which list, if title to them be acquired by will, the testator's name, the date of the will and the place where recorded, shall be inserted, and if the title to them be derived from marriage, the name of the married person from whom the title is derived, shall likewise be inserted in the said list, and the whole be entered on record; and if the said record be made within the time and in the manner herein limited, it shall be allowed to the owner of the slaves so brought in and recorded, to remove them or any of them, or their issue, in and out of this state, as often as his or her interest may require, without being under the necessity of recording them each time they are brought in. *Laws of Maryland*, 1798; *Ch.* 76, *Sect.* 1, 2.

No part of the laws of Maryland, declared by an act of Congress, passed the twenty-seventh day of February 1801, to be in force within the said district, shall ever be construed so as to prohibit the owners of slaves to hire them within or remove them to the said district, in the same way as was practised prior to the passage of the above recited act. *Laws of the United States*, 1802; *May* 3, *Sect.* 7.

CHAPTER XXXVI.

MANUMITTED SLAVES NOT ENTITLED TO THE RIGHT OF SUFFRAGE OR OF OFFICE.

No slave manumitted agreeably to the laws of this state, shall be entitled to the privilege of voting at elections or of being elected or

appointed to any office of profit or trust. *Laws of Maryland*, 1796; *Ch.* 67, *Sect.* 5.

CHAPTER XXXVII.

HOW LONG IMPORTED PERSONS, BOUND FOR A TERM OF YEARS, SHALL SERVE.

No person, brought into this state from any of the United States, who is bound for a term of years only by the laws of the state from which such person is brought, shall be considered as a slave for life in this state, but shall serve for the time which the laws of the state from which such person is brought, oblige him to serve, and no longer. *Laws of Maryland*, 1796; *Ch.* 67, *Sect.* 6.

CHAPTER XXXVIII.

WHEN AND HOW SLAVES MAY BE MANUMITTED BY LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT, OR BY DEED.

It shall be lawful for any person, capable in law to make a valid will and testament, to grant freedom to and effect the manumission of any slaves belonging to such person, by his or her last will or testament, and such manumission of any slaves may be made to take effect at the death of the testator, or at such other periods as may be limited in such last will and testament, provided always, that no manumission hereafter to be made by last will and testament, shall be effectual to give freedom to any slaves, if the same shall be in prejudice of creditors, nor unless the said slaves shall be under the age of forty-five years, and able to work and gain a sufficient livelihood and maintenance, at the time the freedom given shall commence. *Laws of Maryland*, 1796; *Ch.* 67, *Sec.* 13.

Any person, possessed of any slaves within this State, who are of healthy constitution and sound in mind and body, capable by labor to procure to them sufficient food and raiment with other requisite necessaries of life, and not exceeding forty-five years of age, and being willing and desirous to set free or manumit such slaves, may, by writing under his or her hand and seal, evidenced by two good and sufficient witnesses at least, grant to such slaves their freedom; and any deed or writing whereby freedom shall be given or granted to any slave, which shall be intended to take place in future, shall be good to all intents, constructions and purposes whatsoever, from the time that such freedom or manumission is intended to commence by said deed or writing, so that such deed or writing be not in prejudice of creditors, and that such slave, at the time such freedom shall take place or commence, be not above the age aforesaid, and be able to work and gain a sufficient livelihood and mainte-

nance; which instrument of writing shall be acknowledged before one justice of the peace of the county wherein the grantor of such freedom shall reside, which justice shall endorse on the back of such instrument the time of the acknowledgment and the party making the same, which he or she or the parties concerned shall cause to be entered among the records of the County Court where the grantor of such freedom shall reside, within six months after the date of such instrument of writing; and the Clerk of the respective County Courts within this State, shall, immediately upon the receipt of such instrument, endorse the time of his receiving the same, and shall well and truly enrol such deed or instrument in a good and sufficient book in folio, to be regularly alphabeted in the names of both parties, and to remain in the custody of the said clerk for the time being, among the records of the respective County Courts; and the Clerk shall, on the back of every such instrument, in a full and legible hand, make an endorsement of such enrolment and also of the folio of the book in which the same shall be enrolled, and to such endorsement set his hand, the person requiring such entry paying the usual and legal fees for the same; and a copy of such record duly attested under the seal of such office shall, at all times, be deemed to all intents and purposes good evidence to prove such freedom. *Laws of Maryland*, 1796; *Ch.* 67, *Sec.* 29, 30.

CHAPTER XXXIX.

ABDUCTION OF COLORED PERSONS—HOW PUNISHED.

If any person shall forcibly or fraudulently transport, or carry or cause to be transported or carried out of this state, any free negro or mulatto, knowing such free negro or mulatto to be free, every such person shall forfeit and pay the sum of eight hundred dollars, for every negro or mulatto so transported or carried or caused to be transported or carried, one half to the use of the county in which the recovery may be had and the other half to the informer, to be recovered by action of debt or bill of indictment, and if the said sum be not paid or secured to be paid, within thirty days after judgment, such person shall be adjudged by the court to serve on the public roads for any period not exceeding five years; and if any person shall transport or carry, or cause to be transported or carried out of this state, any negro or mulatto entitled to freedom at a certain age, or sell or otherwise dispose of or cause to be sold or otherwise disposed of out of this state, such negro or mulatto as a slave for life, or for a longer term than he has to serve by law, knowing such negro or mulatto to be entitled to freedom at a certain age, every such person shall, for every such offence, forfeit and pay the sum of eight hundred dollars, one half to the use of the county as aforesaid, and the other half to the informer, to be recovered as aforesaid, and if the said sum be not paid or secured to be paid as aforesaid, such person shall be adjudged by the court to serve on the roads for any period not exceeding five years. *Laws of Maryland*, 1796; *Ch.* 67, *Sect.* 15.

If any free person shall, in the District of Columbia, unlawfully by force and violence, take and carry away or cause to be taken and carried away or shall, by fraud, unlawfully seduce or cause to be seduced any free negro or mulatto, from any part of the said District to any other part of said District or to any other place, with design or intention to sell or dispose of such negro or mulatto, or to cause her or him to be kept and detained as a slave for life or servant for years, every such person so offending, his or her counsellors, aiders and abettors, shall, on conviction thereof, be punished by fine not exceeding five thousand dollars, and imprisonment and confinement to hard labor in the penitentiary, for any time not exceeding twelve years, according to the enormity of the offence. *Laws of the United States*, 1831, *March 2d*, *Sect.* 17.

CHAPTER XL.

PENALTY AGAINST IMPORTING FREE COLORED PERSONS AND SELLING THEM INTO SLAVERY.

If any person shall import or bring into this state any free negro or mulatto or any person bound to service for a term of years only, and shall sell or otherwise dispose of such free negro, mulatto or person bound to serve for a term of years only, as a slave for life or for any longer time than by law such person may be bound to serve, knowing such negro or mulatto to be free or entitled to freedom at a certain age, every such person shall, for every such offence, forfeit and pay the sum of eight hundred dollars, to be recovered by action of debt or indictment, one half to the use of the county, the other half to the informer, and in case the said sum be not paid or secured to be paid within thirty days, then such person shall be adjudged to work on the roads for any term not exceeding five years. *Laws of Maryland*, 1796, *Ch.* 67, *Sect.* 16.

CHAPTER XLI.

MASTERS PROHIBITED FROM SUFFERING THEIR SLAVES TO GO AT LARGE BEGGING, &c.

If any master, mistress or owner of any slaves shall suffer such slave to depart from their respective habitation or quarter and remain at large begging or becoming burthensome to the respective neighborhoods or to other persons, it shall be lawful for the County Courts where the master mistress or owner of such slaves shall reside, and they are required, upon the complaint or information of any credible person supported by oath or affirmation, to cause such complaint or information to be minuted among their proceedings, and thereupon to issue their warrant to the sheriff of their county against such master, mistress or owner of such slave

thereby to cause such master, mistress or owner to appear before them at some day to be limited in such warrant; and if on due examination in a summary way, the said court shall be satisfied that such master, mistress or owner of such slaves has suffered them to depart and wander or remain at large contrary to this act, the said court are required to cause such master, mistress or owner of such slaves to enter into recognizance with one sufficient security, if the same shall be awarded, in the penalty of one hundred dollars, to be taken to and in the name of this state, and the condition of such recognizance shall be, that if such master, mistress or owner of such slaves, his or her executors or administrators shall suffer such slaves to depart and remain at large contrary to this act, then such recognizance shall remain in force and virtue, and if such master, mistress or owner of any such slaves shall afterwards commit any breach of the condition of such recognizance, it shall be lawful for any person to put in suit and prosecute such recognizance against the cognisor thereof; and if the master, mistress or owner bound by such recognizance, his or her executors or administrators, shall be convicted of any of the breaches assigned, by verdict, confession or otherwise, the judgment of the court shall be rendered for the penalty and costs of suit, and the same may be recovered by any process of execution, and one third of the penalty shall go to the use of the prosecutor and the remainder to be applied as a fund for the county school, if any, and if not, to the use of the county in which such conviction shall happen, and the name of the person prosecuting such recognizance shall be endorsed upon the original writ, and he shall be answerable for the fees and costs; provided, that if any slaves shall run away or abscond from the service of their master, mistress or owner, contrary to the will of such master, mistress or owner, such running away and absconding shall not be construed, deemed or taken to be a departing or remaining at large within the meaning of this act. *Laws of Maryland*, 1796; *Ch.* 67, *Sect.* 17.

CHAPTER XLII.

PENALTY AGAINST GIVING AWAY OR SELLING CERTIFICATES OF FREEDOM.

In all cases where certificates from a clerk of any court or from any judge or magistrate, shall be granted to free negroes or mulattoes, if any negro or mulatto shall give or sell such certificate to any slave, by which means such slave may be enabled to abscond from the service of his master or owner and personate the grantee of such certificate, it shall be lawful for the master or owner of such slave to have a remedy against such free negro in any court of law in this state, and the court, before whom such free negro may be tried, shall have full power and authority, upon conviction by the verdict of a jury or upon confession or otherwise, to fine such free negro or mulatto a sum not exceeding three hundred dollars, in the discretion of the court, one half to the use of the master or owner of the absconding slave, the other half to the use of the county school, if any, and if not, to the use of the county; and in case the said

fine shall not be paid or secured to be paid, within thirty days, the said court may adjudge such free negro to be sold at public vendue, for such a term as the court may deem just and proper, not exceeding seven years, and the money arising from such sale shall be paid to the owner of the slave, who shall have absconded by means of such certificate. *Laws of Maryland*, 1796; *Ch.* 67, *Sect.* 18.

CHAPTER XLIII.

PENALTY AGAINST GIVING UNLAWFUL PASSES TO SLAVES OR SERVANTS.

From any person, who shall hereafter be convicted of giving a pass to any slave or person held to service, or shall be found to assist by advice, donation or loan, or otherwise, the transporting of any slave or person held to service from this state, or by any other unlawful means, depriving a master or owner of the service of his slave or person held to service, for ever, such offence, the party aggrieved shall recover damages, in an action on the case, against such offender, and said offender shall also be liable, upon indictment and conviction upon verdict, confession or otherwise, in any county of this state where such offence shall happen, to be fined a sum not exceeding two hundred dollars, at the discretion of the court, one half to the use of the master or owner of such slave, the other half to the county school, if any, and if not, to the use of the county. *Laws of Maryland*, 1796; *Ch.* 67, *Sec.* 19.

CHAPTER XLIV.

SLAVES PROHIBITED FROM SELLING LIQUOR WITHOUT LICENSE.

Any slave, selling liquor or keeping entertainment at any muster ground, horse-race or other public place whatever, without the order or permission of his or her owner in writing, shall be liable to be apprehended and punished, in the discretion of any justice of the peace, not exceeding twenty stripes. *Laws of Maryland*, 1796; *Ch.* 67, *Sec.* 20.

CHAPTER XLV.

FREE PERSONS OF COLOR LIVING IDLE WITHOUT ANY VISIBLE MEANS OF SUBSISTENCE, AND GOING AT LARGE—HOW PUNISHED.

Upon the information, on oath or affirmation of any credible person, to any judge, associate justice or justice of the peace of any county of

this state, that any free negro or mulatto is found living idle, without any visible means of maintenance, or going at large through such county and without any visible means of subsistence, such judge is hereby authorized and required to issue his warrant to any constable of the county, directing him to apprehend such free negro or mulatto and bring him or her before some judge or justice of such county; and upon the return of said warrant, the judge or justice before whom it shall be returned, is hereby authorized to inquire by all lawful means, whether such free negro or mulatto is an offender under this act, and if it shall appear to the satisfaction of the judge or justice, that he or she is such an offender, such judge or justice is hereby directed forthwith to order such free negro or mulatto to give security for his good behavior in a penalty not exceeding thirty dollars, or on default of such security to order such offender to depart from the state within five days; and such offender, refusing to comply with the requirements of this act, or after leaving the state, shall return again within six months, may be again taken up and carried before some judge or justice of the peace, who may commit the said free negro or mulatto to the common jail of the county, and if such offender, so committed, shall not within twenty days thereafter pay his or her prison charges, it shall be lawful for the sheriff of the county, with the approbation of any two justices of the peace of such county, to sell such free negro or mulatto, to serve for a period of time not exceeding six calendar months, and the money arising therefrom, after payment of the charges arising from such commitment to confinement, to pay over unto the justices of the levy courts of the respective counties, for the use of said counties. *Laws of Maryland*, 1796; *Ch.* 67, *Sec.* 20.

CHAPTER XLVI

HOW TRIALS OF PETITION FOR FREEDOM SHALL BE CONDUCTED.

All petitions for freedom shall commence and be tried only, in the county where the petitioners shall reside, under the direction of their master, mistress, or owner, and the court of the county, in which such petitions shall be preferred, shall have full power and authority to issue process against such master, mistress or owner, for the purpose of compelling his or her appearance, directed to the sheriff of the county where such person shall reside, and such sheriff shall serve and return such process, in the same manner as if issued by the county court of his county, and in case of neglect or delay in such sheriff to execute and return such process, he may be fined by the court issuing such process; and in all petitions for freedom, the petitioner or defendant may apply to the court for the benefit of a trial by jury, and the court shall thereupon charge as the law directs, the attending jury to determine each and all of the allegations, contained in the petition which may be controverted; and there shall be no appeal from the judgment of the county court, except as to matters of law, where the facts have been tried by a jury, and the master, mistress or owner of such petitioner, or the petitioner shall have the right

to appeal as to matters of law only, and to take bills of exception in all cases so tried to the general court; and either master, mistress or owner, or the petitioner shall have the right and privilege of challenging peremptorily to the number of twelve jurors impanelled to try the facts in issue, and for want of a sufficient number of jurors remaining upon the original panel, a *tales*, at the prayer of either party, shall be awarded by the court to try the said issue; and in all cases of petitions for freedom, instituted in any Court of Law in this State, where the petition shall be dismissed, or upon trial, the judgment be against the petitioner, the attorney prosecuting or appearing to the same shall pay all legal costs arising thereon, unless the Court, before whom the same may be brought, shall be of opinion, under all circumstances, that there was probable ground to suppose the said petitioner had a right to freedom; and if any petition for freedom shall be filed in any Court of Law in this state and dismissed, and a second petition be filed at the suit of the same party, the Court, in which such second petition shall be filed, shall order a stay of all proceedings, until the costs of the former petition, and all reasonable damages and expenses sustained and incurred by the defendant therein, to be ascertained by the Court, shall have been paid or secured to be paid. *Laws of Maryland*, 1796; *Ch.* 67, *Sec.* 21, 22, 23, 24, 25.

CHAPTER XLVII.

SLAVES SETTING ON FIRE WOODS, FENCES, &c.,—HOW PUNISHED.

Any slave or servant, who shall wilfully and maliciously set on fire any woods, fences, marshes, lands, leaves, or rubbish thereon, within the Counties of Montgomery, Prince George's, &c., so as to occasion any loss, damage or injury to any other person, without the direction of his or her master, mistress or owner, and said slave be thereof duly convicted before a single magistrate, such offender, unless his or her master, mistress or owner will pay the fine imposed, at the discretion of the magistrate, not exceeding ten pounds with costs of suit, shall receive not exceeding thirty-nine lashes on his or her back, at the discretion of said magistrate. *Laws of Maryland*, 1798; *Ch.* 39, *Sec.* 2, 3.

CHAPTER XLVIII.

PERSONS HELD TO LABOR IN ANY STATE AND ESCAPING INTO THIS DISTRICT SHALL BE DELIVERED UP.

In all cases, where the Constitution or Laws of the United States provide, that persons held to labor in any State, escaping into another State, shall be delivered up, the Chief Justice of the said District (of Columbia), shall be and he is hereby empowered and required, to cause to be appre-

bended and delivered up such persons fleeing from service who shall be found within the District, in the same manner and under the same regulations, as the Executive authority of the several States are required to do the same, and all executive and judicial officers are hereby required to obey all lawful precepts or other process issued for that purpose, and to the aiding and assisting in such delivery. *Laws of the United States*, 1801, *March 3d*; *Sect.* 6.

CHAPTER XLIX.

CAPITAL FELONIES NOT SPECIALLY PROVIDED FOR BY THIS ACT—HOW PUNISHED.

All capital felonies and crimes in the District of Columbia, not herein specially provided for, except murder, treason, piracy, shall hereafter be punished by imprisonment and labor in the penitentiary of the said District, for a period not less than seven nor more than twenty years. *Laws of the United States*, 1831; *Ch.* 2, *Sect.* 14.

CHAPTER L.

WHIPPING OF FREE PERSONS FORBIDDEN.

Every other felony, misdemeanor or offence, not provided for by this Act, may and shall be punished as heretofore, except that in all cases where whipping is part or the whole of the punishment, except in cases of slaves, the Court shall substitute therefor imprisonment in the county jail for a period not exceeding six months. *Laws of the United States*, 1831, *March* 2; *Sect.* 15.

CHAPTER LI.

ALL PROVISIONS AGAINST CRIMES IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, EXCEPT SUCH AS ARE ALTERED BY THIS ACT, SHALL REMAIN IN FULL FORCE.

All definitions and descriptions of crimes; all fines, forfeitures, and incapacities, the restriction of property or the payment of the value thereof; and every other matter not provided for in this Act, be and the same shall remain as heretofore. *Laws of the United States*, 1831, *March 2d*. *Sect.* 16.

CHAPTER LII.

THE PUNISHMENT OF SLAVES FOR OFFENCES UNDER THE LAWS—NOT CHANGED BY THIS ACT.

Nothing herein contained shall be construed to apply to slaves, not resident of the District of Columbia, but such slaves shall, for all offences committed in said District, be punished agreeably to the laws as they now exist; *Provided*, That this Act shall not be construed to extend to slaves. *Laws of the United States*, 1831, *March 2d*, *Sect.* 18.

ORDINANCES

OF THE

CORPORATION OF WASHINGTON.

CHAPTER LIII.

POWERS OF THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF WASHINGTON, IN REGARD TO COLORED PERSONS.

The Corporation of Washington shall have power and authority, to restrain and prohibit the nightly and other disorderly meetings of slaves, free negroes and mulattoes, and to punish such slaves by whipping, not exceeding forty stripes, or by imprisonment, not exceeding six months for any one offence, and to punish such free negroes and mulattoes by penalties, not exceeding twenty dollars for any one offence, and in case of the inability of any free negro or mulatto to pay any such penalty and cost thereon, to cause him or her to be confined to labor, for any time not exceeding six calendar months; to prescribe the terms and conditions upon which free negroes and mulattoes may reside in the city; to punish corporeally any colored servant or slave for a breach of any of their laws or ordinances, unless the owner or holder of such servant or slave shall pay the fine in such cases provided; and to pass all laws, which shall be deemed necessary and proper, for carrying into execution the powers vested by this Act in the said Corporation. *Laws of the United States*, 1820, *May 1st*, *Sect.* 8.

CHAPTER LIV.

SLAVES GUILTY OF HORSE-RACING WITHIN THREE HUNDRED YARDS OF ANY HOUSE—HOW PUNISHED.

If any slave shall be seen running any horse in any street or avenue of the city, within three hundred yards of any house or h the duty of any constable to take such slave before his being convicted of such offence, he shall be p number of lashes, not exceeding thirty-nine. *Ordi tion of Washington*, 1809, *Dec. 9th*, *Sect.* 3.

CHAPTER LV.

TAX ON SLAVES OF RESIDENTS.

There shall be paid annually on the first day of January, the following tax on slaves, the property of residents of the City of Washington, by his or her owner, viz.: On male slaves between the age of fifteen and forty-five, two dollars; and on female slaves between the age of fifteen and forty-five, the sum of one dollar. *Ordinances of the Corporation of Washington*, 1816, *Feb. 29th*, *Sect. 3.*

CHAPTER LVI.

DUTY OF ASSESSORS OF TAXES IN REGARD TO SLAVES.

It shall be the duty of the Assessors of the Tax in the City of Washington, to make out a list of the owners or proprietors of slaves, enumerating the number belonging to each person, with a description of their age and sex, and distinguishing those belonging to residents from those belonging to non-residents, which said list, it shall be the duty of the said assessors to return to the register, at the time of making their return of the assessments of real and personal property. *Ordinances of the Corporation of Washington*, 1817, *July 2d.*

CHAPTER LVII.

PENALTY AGAINST LICENSED DRINKING SHOPS SELLING LIQUOR TO SLAVES.

It shall be unlawful for any licensed persons, to sell or barter any spirituous liquors, wines, cordials, strong beer or cider, to any slave, or suffer the same to be drunk by any slave, within their shops, porter-cellars, or houses, or confectionaries, on pain of forfeiting and paying for each offence, a fine of twenty dollars, one-half to the use of the corporation, and one-half to the informer. *Ordinances of the Corporation of Washington*, 1819, *October 26th*, *Sect. 3.*

CHAPTER LVIII.

PUNISHMENT OF SLAVES FOR BATHING IN CERTAIN WATERS BETWEEN SUN-RISE AND SUN-SET.

It shall not be lawful for any slave to bathe or swim in the Anacostia river, between Sixth street east, and Fifteenth street west; or in the canal

or any part of the Tyber east of Fifteenth street west, or in the Potomac river adjoining the city of Washington, lying between the Potomac Bridge and the northern boundary of the public ground at Greenleaf's Point, or in that part of the Potomac river, adjoining said city, lying between the mouth of the Tyber and Twenty-third street west, and between D street north and the mouth of Rock Creek, or to bathe or swim from or under the Potomac Bridge, on pain of being punished for each offence, on conviction thereof, with any number of stripes on his or her back, not exceeding five, unless his or her owner shall choose to pay a fine of two dollars for each offence. *Ordinances of the Corporation of Washington*, 1821, *July 10th*, *Sect.* 3.—1826, *June 8th*—1830, *July 24th*—1843, *December 21st*, *Sect.* 3.

CHAPTER LIX.

PUNISHMENT OF SLAVES FOR MALTREATING HORSES.

Any slave, who shall cruelly beat or wantonly abuse any animal of the horse kind, shall receive not less than five, nor more than ten lashes on his or her bare back, for each and every offence so committed. *Ordinances of the Corporation of Washington*, 1821, *July 12th*, *Sect.* 1, 3.

CHAPTER LX.

TAX ON SLAVES OF NON-RESIDENTS.

The following tax is imposed on the slaves of non-residents, hired to persons residing within the city of Washington, to wit: On every male slave above the age of eighteen years and under forty-five, twenty dollars per annum; on every male slave under eighteen and above twelve years of age, twelve dollars per annum; and every female slave between fifteen and forty-five years of age, two dollars per annum; and if any non-resident shall hire a slave to labor, or do service in the said city, without having first paid the above tax, he or she shall forfeit and pay the sum of twenty dollars for every such offence, and any person who shall hire any slaves belonging to non-residents, for whom the said tax is not paid, shall, in like manner, forfeit and pay the sum of twenty dollars for each and every slave so hired, and if such person shall continue to employ such slave, so hired, he or she shall forfeit and pay the sum of five dollars for every month such slave shall continue to be so employed; and for every hiring of slaves by non-residents to do labor or service in the City of Washington, for any period less than a year, the above tax shall be paid in the same manner and under the same penalties, as if the hiring was for a year; and if any resident or non-resident of the said city, by a fictitious bill of sale or otherwise, attempt to elude or evade the provisions of this act, he or she shall forfeit and pay for every such offence, the sum of twenty dollars,

which shall be in addition to the above penalty. *Ordinances of the Corporation of Washington*, 1823, *April 5th*, *Sect.* 1, 2, 3, 4.

CHAPTER LXI.

SLAVES BROUGHT INTO THIS CITY TO HIRE OR TO RESIDE MUST BE RECORDED.

Every person, bringing or sending any slaves into this city to hire or reside therein, shall, within twenty days thereafter, cause the said slaves to be recorded on the books of the corporation, and shall deposit with the Register an affidavit, that such slaves are *bonâ fide* his or her property, and every person, neglecting or refusing so to do, shall forfeit and pay the sum of twenty dollars for every slave brought in, who shall not be found on said books of record: and the Register shall be entitled to receive, for registering every such slave, a fee of twenty-five cents, to be paid by every person causing the same to be done. *Ordinances of the Corporation of Washington*, 1823, *April 5th*, *Sect* 5.

CHAPTER LXII.

PUNISHMENT OF SLAVES FOR INJURING THE PUBLIC PUMPS.

It shall not be lawful for any slave to destroy, impair or in any manner injure any public pump, well, aqueduct or hydrant, within the limits of this city, on pain of being punished for each offence, by commitment to the penitentiary or workhouse, for any number of days not exceeding thirty days, at the discretion of the justice taking cognizance of the offence, unless the owner of such slave, or person hiring such slave, shall choose to pay a fine not exceeding ten dollars for every such offence. *Ordinances of the Corporation of Washington*, 1826, *July 26th*; *Sect.* 1, 2.

CHAPTER LXIII.

PUNISHMENT OF SLAVES FOR INJURING ANY ENCLOSURES OF THE MALL.

If any slave shall pull down, impair or otherwise injure any fence, wall or enclosure or any part thereof, on the limits of the public mall, or any public square or reservation, under the control of this corporation, he shall on conviction, be punished at the discretion of the magistrate, with any number of stripes on the bare back not exceeding twenty for each and every offence so committed; *Provided*, that the owner or person, in

whose employ said slave may be, shall have a right to pay a fine not exceeding ten dollars, in lieu of the punishment incurred by said slave, for violating this act. *Ordinances of the Corporation of Washington*, 1826, *October 12th*, *Sect.* 1, 2.

CHAPTER LXIV.

TERMS UPON WHICH FREE COLORED PERSONS ARE PERMITTED TO RESIDE IN THE CITY OF WASHINGTON.

Within thirty days after the first of October next, it shall be the duty of all free black or mulatto persons, males of the age of sixteen, and females of the age of fourteen years and upwards, who may then reside in the City of Washington, to exhibit satisfactory evidence of their title to freedom, to the Register of this corporation, together with a list of the names, ages and sex of all other persons of color under these ages, whether his or her own children or otherwise, inhabiting his or her house, who may not have performed this duty under existing laws; and for omitting to perform any or all the duties herein prescribed, the person so omitting shall forfeit and pay a sum of money not exceeding six dollars, for each and every month, he or she may continue to omit or neglect; and the Register of this corporation shall keep a record of all such free black and mulatto persons, and of their ages, sex, names and residence, and shall furnish a written permit, under the seal of the corporation, free of expense, to each head of a family, embracing all under his or her care, or to each individual, as the case may be, authorizing them to reside in the City of Washington, under the conditions prescribed in this act. *Ordinances of the Corporation of Washington*, 1827, *May 31st*, *Sect.* 1, 2.

Every negro and mulatto found residing in the City of Washington, after the passage of this act, who shall not be able to establish his or her title to freedom (except such as may be hired to a resident of this city, and on whom the tax shall have been paid, agreeably to the provisions of the act of April 5th, 1823), shall be committed to the jail of the County of Washington, as absconding slaves. *Ordinances of the Corporation of Washington*, 1827, *May 31st*, *Sect.* 10.

It shall not be lawful for any resident of this city to employ, harbor or conceal any free black or mulatto person, who cannot produce a permit from the Register, authorizing him or her to reside in the City of Washington, and on conviction thereof before a Justice of the Peace, shall forfeit and pay for each and every offence, a sum not exceeding five dollars; *Provided*, that nothing in this act shall be so construed as to apply to or affect the condition of any negro or mulatto, who may be attached to or in the service of any transient person or Member of Congress, while in such employment, or who may have been sent to the city on business by their employer. *Ordinances of the Corporation of Washington*, 1827, *May 31st*, *Sect.* 11.

Every free negro or mulatto, whether male or female, who has complied with the provisions of the act of May 31st, 1827, and o

colored person, who may be manumitted or be made or declared to be free in any other manner or form whatsoever, shall forthwith exhibit to the mayor, satisfactory evidence of his or her title to freedom, to be recorded by the Register as directed by the second section of the act of May 31st, 1827, and shall enter into bond to the Mayor, Board of Aldermen and Board of Common Council of the City of Washington, with five good and sufficient sureties, in the penalty of one thousand dollars, conditioned for his or her good and orderly conduct, and that of every member of his or her existing family, and that they or either of them do not become chargeable to this corporation, which bond shall be renewed every year; and on failure to comply with each and every provision of this section, he, she or they so failing, shall forfeit and pay a sum not exceeding twenty dollars, and shall be ordered by the mayor to depart forthwith from this city, and on failure to do so, shall be committed to the work-house, until such conditions shall be complied with, not exceeding six months in any one commitment; and any free person or persons of color, who may be imprisoned under the provisions of this act, may be discharged from such imprisonment by order of the mayor, upon his or her being able to satisfy the mayor, that he or she will, with his or her family and dependents, forthwith depart from the city; but, if he or she shall fail to depart therefrom, or departing, shall return to and be found within the same, at any time within twelve months thereafter, he or she shall be again committed, as if no such discharge had taken place; *Provided*, that nothing in this section shall be so construed as to release the child or children of such person or persons of color, who may have been bound out to servitude by the guardians of the poor, until the expiration of their term of service. *Ordinances of the Corporation of Washington*, 1836, *October 29th*, *Sect.* 1, 2.

Every free negro or mulatto, whether male or female, who may come to the City of Washington, shall be subject to all the provisions of the first section of the act of October 29th, 1836; and the following words in the first section of the act aforesaid, viz:—"Who has not complied with the provisions of the act to which this is a supplement" (May 31st, 1827) be and they are hereby repealed. *Ordinances of the Corporation of Washington*, 1836, *November, 9th*, *Sect.* 1, 2.

The mayor is hereby required to cause the city seal to be placed on each certificate granted under the act of 29th October, 1836 (May 31st, 1827?) and to charge and collect on each certificate so granted, the sum of two dollars for the use of the corporation, and for the renewal of every such certificate as required by the said act, the sum of one dollar each shall be paid, to be applied as aforesaid. *Ordinances of the Corporation of Washington*, 1847, *October 28th*.

The mayor is requested to have published daily for ten days, in the newspapers authorized to publish the laws of the corporation, the Eleventh and Twelfth Sections of the act of the 31st of May, 1827, and to cause the said publication to be annually made on or about the first day of November, with a notice to all whom it may concern, for a renewal of the certificates required by the act of 29th October, 1836 (Act of 31st of May 1827?) *Ordinances of the Corporation of Washington*, 1847, *November 11th*.

CHAPTER LXV.

IDLE, DISORDERLY OR TUMULTUOUS ASSEMBLAGES OF NI PROHIBITED.

All idle, disorderly or tumultuous assemblages of negroes, disturb the peace or repose of the citizens, are hereby prohibited free negro or mulatto, found offending against the provisions of tion, may, on conviction thereof before a justice of the peace, nized with one or more sureties, in the penal sum of twenty doll tioned for his or her peaceable and orderly behavior, for any time, not exceeding six months from the date of such rec *Ordinances of the Corporation of Washington*, 1827, *May* 31*st*,

---

CHAPTER LXVI.

PUNISHMENT OF FREE COLORED PERSONS FOR GAMI

If any free black or mulatto person shall be found playing dice or any other game of an immoral tendency, or shall be pres of the company where such game is playing, on conviction there a justice of the peace, he shall forfeit and pay a fine not exc dollars. *Ordinances of the Corporation of Washington*, 1827, *S Sect.* 4.

CHAPTER LXVII.

PUNISHMENT OF FREE COLORED PERSONS FOR HAVING DAN AT THEIR HOUSES, WITHOUT LICENSE.

All free black or mulatto persons are prohibited from having ball or assembly, at his, her or their house, without first having a license or permit, for that purpose, from the Mayor, in whic mentioned the place, time of meeting, number of guests, hour o up, and the name of the person so applying for such permit; an black or mulatto persons, offending against the provisions of thi or suffering such disorder, during said period, as to disturb the the neighborhood, on conviction thereof before a justice of t shall forfeit and pay for each and every offence a sum not exce dollars. *Ordinances of the Corporation of Washington*, 1827, *S Sect*, 5.

CHAPTER LXVIII.

FREE COLORED PERSONS PROHIBITED FROM GOING AT LARGE, LATER THAN TEN O'CLOCK AT NIGHT.

No free black or mulatto person shall be allowed to go at large, through the City of Washington, at a later hour than ten o'clock at night, excepting such free black or mulatto person have a pass from some justice of the peace or respectable citizen, or be engaged in driving a cart, wagon or other carriage; and any free person of color, found offending against the provisions of this Section, shall, on conviction thereof before a justice of the peace, forfeit and pay a sum not exceeding ten dollars, and all such offenders may be confined in a lock-up house, until the following morning; *Provided*, That nothing herein contained shall be made to apply to any person of color, sent on an errand by the owner or employer of said person. *Ordinances of the Corporation of Washington*, 1827, *May 31st*, *Sect.* 6.

CHAPTER LXIX.

PUNISHMENT OF FREE COLORED PERSONS FOR BEING FOUND DRUNK, &C.

All free black or mulatto persons who shall be found drunk in the public streets, open grounds or tippling houses, or guilty of obscene and profane language or behavior, on conviction thereof before a justice of the peace, shall forfeit and pay a sum not exceeding three dollars for each and every offence. *Ordinances of the Corporation of Washington*, 1827, *May 31st*, *Sect.* 7.

CHAPTER LXX.

PUNISHMENT OF FREE COLORED PERSONS FOR REFUSING OR NEGLECTING TO PAY FINES IMPOSED UPON THEM BY THIS ACT.

Any free black or mulatto person, who may be fined under any of the provisions of this Act, on refusing or neglecting to pay or secure to be paid such fine, shall be committed to the work-house, until such fine be paid, for any period of time, not exceeding six months; and on refusing or neglecting to give the security for good behavior required by any of the provisions of this Act, shall be committed to the work-house, until such security be given, not exceeding six months, for any one offence. *Ordinances of the Corporation of Washington*, 1827, *May 31st*, *Sect.* 8.

CHAPTER LXXI.

PUNISHMENT OF SLAVES FOR OFFENCES AGAINST THIS ACT.

The duties and obligations, which by this Act are imposed on free persons of color, are hereby made to apply to slaves, as far as they may be consistent with their condition as such; and any slave found offending against any of the provisions of this Act, on conviction thereof before a justice of the peace, may be sentenced to receive any number of stripes, on his or her bare back, not exceeding thirty-nine, but it shall be optional with such slave, to have the punishment of whipping commuted for the payment of the fine, which would be imposed, in such cases, on free persons of color. *Ordinances of the Corporation of Washington*, 1827, *May 31st, Sect.* 8.

CHAPTER LXXII.

PUNISHMENT OF PERSONS OF COLOR FOR FREQUENTING THE CAPITOL SQUARE WITHOUT NECESSARY BUSINESS.

Persons of color frequenting the Capitol square, without necessary business, and refusing to depart, shall be fined in a sum not exceeding twenty dollars, and in case of inability or refusal to pay the same, shall be confined to labor for a term, not more than thirty days for each offence. *Ordinances of the Corporation of Washington*, 1829, *Jan. 9th, Sect.* 1.

CHAPTER LXXIII.

PUNISHMENT OF SLAVES FOR CREATING A FALSE ALARM OF FIRE.

If any slave shall kindle or set on fire, or be present, aiding, consenting or causing it to be done, in any street, avenue, or alley, open ground or lot, any barrel, straw, shavings or other combustible, between the setting and the rising of the sun, whereby a false alarm of fire may be created, on conviction thereof, he shall be whipped, not exceeding thirty-nine lashes, at the discretion of the magistrate before whom the case may be tried, which punishment may be commuted by the payment of a fine not exceeding five dollars for every offence. *Ordinances of the Corporation of Washington*, 1829, *April 2d.*

CHAPTER LXXIV.

PUNISHMENT OF SLAVES FOR SETTING OFF FIRE-CRACKERS, &C.

If any slave shall set off any fire-crackers, squibs or other artificial fireworks, in any street or avenue, within one hundred yards of any dwelling houses, or shall discharge a gun, pistol or other fire arms on or under the Potomac Bridge at any time, he shall be punished by whipping, not exceeding thirty-nine stripes, at the discretion of the magistrate, which punishment may be commuted by the payment of a fine not exceeding five dollars, nor less than one dollar. *Ordinances of the Corporation of Washington*, 1829, *June 4th*, *Sect.* 2.—1843, *Dec.* 21*st*, *Sect.* 3.

CHAPTER LXXV.

PUNISHMENT OF SLAVES FOR BREAKING LAMPS.

If any slave shall break or injure any lamp now erected or hereafter to be erected, he shall, on conviction, be punished, at the discretion of the magistrate, with any number of stripes on the bare back, not exceeding twenty, for each and every offence committed; *Provided*, that the owner or employer of said slave may pay a fine not exceeding five dollars, in lieu of the punishment incurred by said offender for each and every violation of this act. *Ordinances of the Corporation of Washington*, 1830, *Sept.* 23*d*, *Sect.* 3, 4.

CHAPTER LXXVI.

THE TRADE OR TRAFFIC IN SLAVES TAXED.

After the first of August next, it shall not be lawful for any person to trade or traffic in slaves, within the limits of this Corporation, without first obtaining a license therefor, as is hereinafter provided, from the Mayor (who is hereby authorized to issue the same, to be and remain in force for the term of one year), for which, the following tax shall be paid at the time of making the same, viz: For a license to trade or traffic in slaves for profit, whether as agent or otherwise, four hundred dollars; and every person, who shall sell or barter at retail, trade, traffic, or keep as aforesaid, without first obtaining a license therefor, shall forfeit and pay for each and every offence a sum not less than twenty dollars, nor more than fifty dollars. *Ordinances of the Corporation of Washington*, 1831, *July* 28*th*, *Sect.* 1.

CHAPTER LXXVII.

PENALTY AGAINST ORDINARY KEEPERS FOR SELLING LIQUOR TO SLAVES, &C.

All keepers of ordinaries or taverns shall be and they are hereby prohibited from selling spirituous liquors to slaves or other persons of color, on Sundays and other days, between sun-set and sun-rise; and any keeper of a tavern or ordinary, who shall sell or permit to be sold any spirituous liquors, in violation of this prohibition, shall, on conviction for the first offence, be fined in the sum of twenty dollars, and for a second offence, forfeit his license, which shall be annulled by the mayor. *Ordinances of the Corporation of Washington*, 1832, *Nov. 5th*, *Sect.* 8.

CHAPTER LXXVIII.

PUNISHMENT OF SLAVES FOR INJURING THE PROPERTY OF THE UNITED STATES WITHIN THE CITY OF WASHINGTON.

If any slave be guilty of disorderly and unlawful conduct in or about the public buildings and public grounds belonging to the United States within the City of Washington, or shall wilfully injure the buildings, trees or shrubs, or shall pull down, impair or otherwise injure any fence, wall or other enclosure, or shall injure any sink, culvert, pipe, hydrant, cistern, lamp or bridge, or shall remove any stone, gravel, sand or other property of the United States on any other part of the public grounds or lots belonging to the United States within the City of Washington, or shall tie or in any manner fasten any horse, mule or other animal to any of the trees, boxes or other protection thereof on any of the public grounds belonging to the United States in the City of Washington, or shall drive any cart, wagon or other carriage whatever on any of the paved or gravelled footways now made, or which may hereafter be made, in and on any of the aforesaid public grounds, or shall ride thereon except at the intersection of streets and avenues, or shall "break or injure any of the fire plugs erected along Pennsylvania avenue, by authority of Congress, or use, without having first obtained the written consent of the Commissioner of Public Buildings, the water from said plugs for any other purpose, than the use of the departments of the government and fire companies for the extinguishment of fires or watering the streets," 1842, *May 25th*, such slave, on conviction, shall be punished at the discretion of the magistrate, with any number of stripes on the bare back, not exceeding twenty for each offence; *Provided*, that the owner or person, in whose employment such slave may be, shall have a right to commute such corporeal punishment for such amount of fine, as the magistrate, in his discretion as aforesaid, may impose. *Ordinances of the Corporation of Washington*, 1834, *Oct. 6th*, *Sect.* 1, 2, 3.

CHAPTER LXXIX.

PUNISHMENT OF SLAVES FOR INJURING PRIVATE HOUSES.

If any slave shall be guilty of disorderly or unlawful conduct in or about any dwelling houses of the City of Washington, whether occupied or otherwise, or shall wilfully injure such houses or any of the outhouses thereunto appertaining, or shall break the windows of the same, or shall pull down or otherwise injure any fence, walls, steps, porch, stoop or enclosure or appendage thereunto belonging, such slave shall, upon conviction, be punished at the discretion of the magistrate before whom such case is tried, with any number of stripes on their bare back not exceeding nine-and-thirty for each offence; *Provided*, the owner or person, in whose employ the said slave may be, shall have a right, if so requiring, to pay a fine of not less than one dollar nor more than twenty, in lieu of the punishment incurred by said slave for the violation of this act. *Ordinances of the Corporation of Washington*, 1835, *March* 17*th*, *Sect.* 1, 2.

CHAPTER LXXX.

CONDITIONS UPON WHICH LICENSES SHALL BE GRANTED TO FREE COLORED PERSONS.

It shall not be lawful for the mayor to grant a license for any purpose whatever to any free negro or mulatto, or to any person or persons acting as agent or agents, or in behalf of any free negro or mulatto, except licenses to drive carts, drays, hackney carriages or wagons, and huckstering licenses, nor shall it be lawful for the mayor to grant a license for any purpose whatsoever to any free negro or mulatto, who shall not, before the passage of this act, be a resident of this city and be registered as such on the books of the corporation in compliance with the provisions of the act of May 31st, 1827, nor to any person or persons acting as agent or agents, or in behalf of any such free negro or mulatto, and any license granted contrary to the provisions of the third and fourth sections of this act, shall be null and void. *Ordinances of the Corporation of Washington*, 1836, *Oct.* 29*th*, *Sect.* 3—1845, *May* 26*th*, *Sect.* 18.

CHAPTER LXXXI.

FREE COLORED PERSONS PROHIBITED FROM SELLING LIQUORS, KEEPING TAVERNS, &c.

It shall not be lawful for any free negro or mulatto, or for any person or persons acting as agent or agents or in behalf of any free negro or mu-

latto, to sell or barter any spirituous liquors mixed or unmixed, nor any wine, cordial, porter, ale, strong beer or cider, or any fermented liquors within the limits of this city; nor shall any free negro or mulatto, nor any person or persons acting under or for or on behalf of any free negro or mulatto, keep any tavern, ordinary, shop, porter-cellar, refectory or eating-house of any kind, for profit or gain; and any free negro or mulatto, or any person or persons acting under or for or on behalf of any free negro or mulatto, who shall violate any of the provisions of this section, shall forfeit and pay for each any every offence the sum of twenty dollars, to be recovered and applied in the manner prescribed by an existing ordinance of this Corporation. *Ordinances of the Corporation of Washington*, 1836, *Oct. 29th, Sect.* 4.

CHAPTER LXXXII.

SECRET, PRIVATE AND RELIGIOUS MEETINGS OF COLORED PERSONS BEYOND THE HOUR OF TEN AT NIGHT, PROHIBITED.

All secret or private meetings or assemblages whatsoever, and all meetings for religious worship, beyond the hour of ten o'clock at night, of free negroes, mulattoes or slaves, shall be and they are hereby declared to be unlawful; and any colored person or persons, found at such unlawful assemblages or meetings, or who may continue at any religious meeting after ten o'clock at night, shall for each and every offence, on conviction, pay the sum of five dollars, to be recovered and applied as prescribed by act of this Corporation; and in the event of any such meeting or assemblage as aforesaid, it shall be the duty of any police constable of any ward to enter into the house or upon the premises, where such an unlawful assemblage may be held, and use and employ all lawful and necessary means immediately to disperse the same; and in case any police constable, after full notice and knowledge of such meetings, shall neglect or refuse to execute the duty hereby enjoined and required as aforesaid, or any other duty required of him by this act, he shall, upon conviction thereof, forfeit and pay the sum of fifty dollars, and shall thereafter be incapable of holding any office of power or trust under the Corporation for one year thereafter. *Ordinances of the Corporation of Washington*, 1836, *October 29th, Sect.* 5.

CHAPTER LXXXIII.

FREE PERSONS OF COLOR PERMITTED TO KEEP DOGS.

It shall be lawful for all free persons of color who have families or are house-keeping, to own, possess and keep any animal of the dog kind, under the same regulations and penalties, and upon the same terms on

ORDINANCES

OF THE

CORPORATION OF GEORGETOWN.

CHAPTER LXXXVI.

THE POWERS OF THE CORPORATION OF GEORGETOWN OVER ITS INHABITANTS.

The Mayor, Recorder, Aldermen and Common Council of Georgetown, shall have full power and authority to make such by-laws for the regulation and good government of the said town and precincts and inhabitants thereof, and to restrain all disorders and disturbances, and to prevent all nuisances, inconveniences and annoyances within the said town and its precincts, and other matters, exigencies and things within the said town and its precincts, as to them or a major part of them, shall seem meet and consonant to reason, and not contrary to the constitution and laws of this State; and the said by-laws shall be observed, kept and performed by all the inhabitants of the said town and its precincts and all persons trading therein, under such reasonable penalties, fines and forfeitures as shall be imposed by the said by-laws. *Laws of Maryland*, 1789; *Ch.* 23, *Sect.* 6.

The Mayor, Recorder, Aldermen and Common Council of Georgetown are hereby authorized and empowered to pass, make and ordain all laws necessary to take up, fine, imprison or punish any and all vagrants, loose and disorderly persons and free negroes and persons having no visible means of support, that may be found within the jurisdiction of said town. *Laws of Maryland*, 1797; *Ch.* 56, *Sect.* 1, 2.

The Corporation of Georgetown shall have, possess and enjoy all the rights and immunities, privileges and powers heretofore enjoyed by them, and shall have power to establish night watches and patrols, and to impose and appropriate fines, penalties and forfeitures for breach of their ordinances. *Laws of the United States*, 1805, *March 3d*, *Sect.* 12.

All the rights, powers and privileges, heretofore granted to the corporation of Georgetown by the General Assembly of Maryland, and by the Act of Congress of the 3rd of March 1805, and which are at this time claimed and exercised by them, shall be and remain in full force and effect. *Laws of the United States*, 1809, *March 3d*, *Sect.* 3.

CHAPTER LXXXVII.

PENALTY AGAINST HARBORING OR IN ANY WAY DEALING UNLAWFULLY WITH SERVANTS OR SLAVES.

Any person, residing within the jurisdiction of this Corporation, who shall receive, harbor or entertain any servant or slave belonging to or employed by any person within the jurisdiction of this Corporation, or who shall trade, barter or any way deal with such servant or slave, without leave or license first had and obtained from the master and apprentice of such servant or slave for his or her so doing, shall forfeit and pay the sum of five dollars current money for every such offence: and any free person, residing within the jurisdiction aforesaid, who shall buy or by dealing procure any strong liquor for any such servant or slave, shall forfeit and pay the sum of five dollars current money for every such offence; and if any such servant or slave, residing in or belonging to any inhabitant within the jurisdiction aforesaid, shall employ or procure any person whatsoever (not being an inhabitant of this town or precincts) to buy or deal for strong liquor, or shall counterfeit or cause to be counterfeited any written leave or license from his or her master or mistress, or shall make use of any such counterfeit leave or license, for the purpose of imposing upon retailers or others, in order to procure strong liquor, the master or mistress of any such servant or slave shall forfeit and pay the sum of five dollars current money, or such servant or slave shall suffer such corporal punishment by whipping not exceeding thirty-nine stripes, or imprisonment not exceeding twenty days, as the Mayor, Recorder and Aldermen, in Court sitting, shall adjudge; and no person, living within this town or precincts, shall sell or barter to any servant or slave, any quantity of rum, wine or cider or other spirituous liquors mixed or unmixed, without leave or permission of the master or mistress of such servant or slave, in writing on paper, expressing the quantity every time of such sale or barter, under the penalty of five dollars for every offence; and no person, residing as aforesaid, shall sell, barter or deliver to any such servant or slave as aforesaid, any quantity of rum or other spirituous liquors as aforesaid, on a Sunday, under the penalty of three pounds current money for every offence: and every retailer of rum or other spirituous liquors, who shall retail the same within this town or precincts by clerks, deputies, store-keepers or any other persons, shall be liable for and subject to the penalty aforesaid, for any rum or spirituous liquors sold, bartered or delivered to any such servant or slave by such clerk, deputy, store-keeper or other person; and proof of any such servant or slave coming out of any house, within the jurisdiction aforesaid, with any rum or other spirituous liquors as aforesaid (the master or mistress of such house being known or suspected to harbor or entertain, or deal with, or sell rum or other spirituous liquors to servants or slaves), shall be sufficient evidence to convict the master or mistress of such house; and all and every the penalties and forfeitures by this by-law inflicted shall and may be recovered in the Mayor's Court of this Corporation by indictment or confession, and shall be applied to the use of this Corporation. *Ordinances of the Corporation of Georgetown, 1795, Aug. 4th, Sect.* 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8.

CHAPTER LXXXVIII.

PUNISHMENT OF SLAVES FOR FIGHTING COCKS.

It shall be the duty of the constables of this Corporation to disperse any gang of negroes assembled for the purpose of fighting cocks, and if they or any of them delay or refuse to disperse, the said constables shall take the said negroes so refusing, if they be slaves, and give him, her or them due correction, upon the bare back, in some public part of Georgetown, not exceeding thirty-nine stripes. *Ordinances of the Corporation of Georgetown*, 1796, *October 10th*, *Sect*, 2.

CHAPTER LXXXIX.

PUNISHMENT OF COLORED PERSONS FOR DRIVING HORSES OR CARRIAGES OVER THE PAVED FOOTWAYS OF GEORGETOWN.

If any free negro, mulatto or slave shall drive, lead or carry or cause to be driven, led or carried any horse or carriage over any of the brick-paved footways of Georgetown, for each offence he or she shall be liable, upon conviction thereof before the mayor, recorder, or any one of the aldermen of this corporation, to be punished by whipping, not exceeding ten lashes, unless he or she, or the master or mistress of such slave shall pay the sum of one dollar, to be recovered with costs, in the same manner as small debts are now recovered, for every such offence, one half to the informer and one half to the use of the corporation. *Ordinances of the Corporation of Georgetown*, 1800, *August 1st*, *Sect.* 1. 2.

CHAPTER XC.

PUNISHMENT OF SLAVES FOR SHOOTING FIREARMS.

If any servant or slave be guilty of shooting any gun or other firearms, such servant or slave shall be punished by lashes, not exceeding ten, unless the owner of such servant or slave shall pay the fine of two dollars, with costs, hereby imposed for every such offence. *Ordinances of the Corporation of Georgetown*, 1801, *October 24th*, *Sect.* 2.

CHAPTER XCI.

RESTRICTION UPON SLAVES SELLING ON THE SABBATH.

No slave shall be permitted to sell any article whatever (except fruit) on the Sabbath day, within the jurisdiction of this

without a special license for the purpose, in writing, from his or her master or mistress; and if any slave shall offer for sale, on the Sabbath day, any article whatever (fruit excepted) such slave shall be punished, at the discretion of the mayor or any justice of the peace; and if any person shall purchase any article of a slave on the Sabbath day, without his or her having a license as aforesaid, such person shall, for every such offence, be subject to and pay a fine not exceeding five dollars, at the discretion of the mayor or the justice of the peace, before whom it may be tried. *Ordinances of the Corporation of Georgetown*, 1806, *July 19th*, *Sect.* 8.

CHAPTER XCII.

PUNISHMENT OF SLAVES FOR VIOLATING THE ORDINANCES REGULATING WAGONS, CARTS AND DRAYS.

No driver of a wagon, cart or dray shall leave his team, or permit them to stand, or go in or through any street, within the jurisdiction of this corporation, without having the bridle or line by which the horse or horses may be effectually governed in his hand or perfectly within his reach, unless while in the act of loading or unloading; and no wagon, cart or dray shall be driven along any street faster than at a gentle trot; and no wagon, cart or dray shall take a stand, or stop longer than fifteen minutes in any public street, unless at such proper place as the mayor have assigned; and every slave not complying with the provisions of this ordinance, shall be punished by the infliction of as many stripes as the mayor or justice shall deem necessary, not exceeding thirty-nine, if the master refuse to pay the fine, of not exceeding ten dollars nor less than one dollar, imposed by this ordinance. *Ordinances of the Corporation of Georgetown*, 1810, *Sept. 19th*, *Sect.* 3, 4, 5.

CHAPTER XCIII.

PENALTY AGAINST SABBATH BREAKING.

Every person, commanding or suffering his slaves to work or otherwise profane the Sabbath, by gaming, hunting, fishing or other unlawful pastimes, shall, on conviction thereof before the mayor or a justice of the peace, forfeit a sum not exceeding five dollars, one half to the use of this corporation and one half to the informer; and if the offender be a slave, he or she shall be publicly whipped, not exceeding thirty-nine stripes. *Ordinances of the Corporation of Georgetown*, 1814, *April 2d*, *Sect.* 1.

CHAPTER XCIV.

PUNISHMENT OF SLAVES FOR BATHING IN CERTAIN WATERS.

If any slave shall, before the hour of nine o'clock, P.M., and after the hour of five o'clock, A.M., bathe in the Potomac or Rock Creek, within the jurisdiction of this Corporation, he shall be publicly whipped, not exceeding twenty stripes. *Ordinances of the Corporation of Georgetown*, 1814, *April 2d*, *Sect.* 2.

If any slave bathe in the Canal, within the jurisdiction of this Corporation, he shall be publicly whipped, not exceeding twenty-one stripes. *Ordinances of the Corporation of Georgetown*, 1840, *May 16th*.

CHAPTER XCV.

PUNISHMENT OF SLAVES FOR HORSE RACING.

If any servant or slave shall, by galloping or otherwise, within the limits of this corporation, force or wilfully permit to go, at an improper speed, any horse, mare or gelding, or any cart, wagon or other carriage, through any of the streets, lanes or alleys of this town, the master or mistress of such servant or slave, so offending, shall forfeit and pay a sum not exceeding ten dollars, for every such offence, to be recovered by warrant or information before the mayor or any justice of the peace, one half to the corporation and one half to the informer. *Ordinances of the Corporation of Georgetown*, 1814, *June 14th*, *Sect.* 1.

CHAPTER XCVI.

RESTRICTION UPON CORPORAL PUNISHMENT.

The clerk of the market is hereby requested to prevent the infliction of corporal punishment by lashes on any person, during market hours. *Ordinances of the Corporation of Georgetown*, 1821, *February 24th*.

CHAPTER XCVII.

CONDITIONS UPON WHICH NON-RESIDENTS MAY HIRE THEIR SLAVES WITHIN THIS CORPORATION.

All non-residents, who may hereafter hire a slave c
corporation, shall, within ten days thereafter, cause
each slave to be registered by the clerk of the c

from him a license for that purpose, for which he or she shall pay as follows, viz: for each male slave two dollars, and for each female slave one dollar, which license shall be in force for one year only; and if any non-resident as aforesaid shall hire a slave or slaves to do labor or service within this corporation, either by the year or shorter period, without first taking out a license as aforesaid, he or she shall forfeit and pay a sum not exceeding five dollars, for each and every such offence, and any person or persons, who may hire any slave or slaves, belonging to non-residents, for whom the said license has not been obtained, shall in like manner forfeit and pay a sum not exceeding five dollars, for each and every slave so hired, and if such person or persons shall continue to employ such slave, he or she shall forfeit the sum of two dollars for every month he or she shall continue to employ such slave; and if any resident or non-resident of this corporation shall, by a fictitious bill of sale or otherwise, attempt to evade the provisions of this ordinance, he or she shall forfeit and pay for every such offence, ten dollars in addition to the other penalties hereby imposed; and the clerk shall be entitled to receive twelve and a half cents for each slave registered as aforesaid, and all fines and forfeitures imposed by this ordinance shall be recovered with costs before the mayor or any justice of the peace of the county of Washington, one half to the informer and one half to the corporation. *Ordinances of the Corporation of Georgetown*, 1825, *Dec.* 17*th*, *Sect.* 1, 2, 3, 4.

CHAPTER XCVIII.

PUNISHMENT OF SLAVES FOR FLYING KITES.

If any slave shall fly any kite or kites, within the limits of this corporation, on conviction of the same before the mayor, and being found unable to pay a fine, for every such offence, not exceeding two dollars, to be recovered before the mayor, one half to the informer and the other half to the corporation, such offender may be punished by whipping at the discretion of the mayor. *Ordinances of the Corporation of Georgetown*, 1827, *June* 23*d*, *Sect.* 1, 2, 3.

CHAPTER XCIX.

PUNISHMENT OF SLAVES FOR VIOLATING THE MARKET ORDINANCE.

If any servant or slave shall offend contrary to the directions and meaning of this ordinance, and may be unable to pay the fine or fines incurred, and whose owner or employer shall fail to pay the same, such servant or slave shall be punished by whipping, at the discretion of the mayor, not exceeding thirty-nine stripes. *Ordinances of the Corporation of Georgetown*, 1831, *January* 22*d*, *Sect.* 23.

CHAPTER C.

PUNISHMENT OF SLAVES FOR INJURING DWELLING HOUSES, &C.

If any slave be guilty of disorderly or unlawful conduct, in or about any dwelling houses, or of wilfully injuring such houses or any of the out-houses thereunto appertaining, or of breaking the windows of the same, or of pulling down or otherwise injuring any fence, wall, steps, porch, stoop or enclosure or appendage thereunto belonging, he or she shall, upon conviction thereof, be punished at the discretion of the mayor before whom all cases arising under this ordinance shall be tried, with any number of stripes on his or her bare back, not exceeding nine-and-thirty for each offence, provided the owner or person, in whose employ the said slave may be, shall have a right, if so requiring, to pay a fine of not more than twenty dollars nor less than one dollar, to be recovered as other fines are, in lieu of the punishment incurred by said slave for the violation of this act. *Ordinances of the Corporation of Georgetown*, 1835, *March 28th*, *Sect.* 1, 2.

CHAPTER CI.

TERMS UPON WHICH FREE COLORED PERSONS ARE PERMITTED TO RESIDE WITHIN THE CORPORATION OF GEORGETOWN.

It shall be the duty of all free black or mulatto persons, males of the age of sixteen, and females of the age of fourteen years, and upwards, who may then reside within the corporate limits of this town, whenever required by the mayor, to exhibit to him satisfactory evidence of their title to freedom, together with a list of the names, ages and sex of all other persons of color under those ages, whether his or her own children or otherwise, inhabiting his or her house, and for omitting to perform any or all the duties herein prescribed, the persons so omitting shall be committed to the work-house, for a period not exceeding thirty days, or forfeit and pay a sum of money not exceeding twenty dollars; and the Clerk of the Corporation shall keep a record of all such free blacks and mulatto persons, and of their names, ages, sex and residence, which shall in each case be furnished by such persons, as often as it may be made, and the Clerk shall furnish a permit under the seal of the corporation, free of expense, to each head of family, embracing all under his or her care, or to each individual as the case may be, authorizing them to reside in Georgetown, according to the provisions of this ordinance; and every free black or mulatto person, whether male or female, who may come to Georgetown to reside, shall, within three days thereafter, exhibit to the mayor satisfactory evidence of his or her title to freedom, to be recorded by the Clerk as directed by the second section of this ordinance, and shall enter into bond to the Mayor, Recorder, Aldermen and Common

Council of Georgetown, with two freehold sureties in the penalty of five hundred dollars, conditioned for his or her, and every member of his or her existing family's good and orderly conduct, and that they or either of them do not become chargeable to this corporation, for the space of one year from the date of such bond, to be renewed on the first Monday of October in each and every year, so long as they shall reside in town, and for every failure to comply with each and every provision of this and the preceding section, he, she or they so failing, shall be committed to the work-house for a period not exceeding thirty days, or pay a fine not exceeding twenty dollars; and it shall and may be lawful for the mayor, whenever, in his opinion, the interests or security of this community may seem to require it, to demand of any free black or colored person referred to in the first section of this ordinance, a like bond as is required of those free black and mulatto persons referred to in the third section of this ordinance, and on the failure to comply with such demand, the person so failing shall be liable to all the penalties and punishments enacted and provided against the persons referred to in the said third section, for a similar failure on their parts; and it shall not be lawful for any resident of the town to employ, harbor or conceal any free black or mulatto person, who cannot produce a permit from the Clerk authorizing him or her to reside in the town, and on conviction before a justice of the peace, he or she shall forfeit and pay for every offence a sum not exceeding five dollars. *Ordinances of the Corporation of Georgetown*, 1845, *August 22d*, *Sect.* 1, 2, 3, 4, 7.

CHAPTER CII.

PUNISHMENT OF COLORED PERSONS FOR RECEIVING OR CIRCULATING INSURRECTIONARY PUBLICATIONS.

If any free negro or mulatto person, living in this town, shall be a subscriber to or receive through the Post-Office or any other medium, or shall have in his or her possession, or circulate any newspaper or other publication, or any written or printed paper or book, of a character calculated to excite insurrection or insubordination among the slaves or colored people, every such free negro or mulatto person shall be deemed and adjudged to be a disorderly person and a dangerous and unsafe citizen, and upon conviction thereof before the mayor or justice of the peace, shall for each and every offence, be fined a sum of money not exceeding twenty dollars, or be committed to the work-house for a period not exceeding thirty days, and the sureties of the offending party or parties, given under the third section of this ordinance, shall be immediately required by the mayor to pay the amount of their bond or bonds, and on their failure or refusal to do so, he shall place the same in the hands of the Recorder for suit; and if any black or mulatto person, living in the town, being a slave, shall be found offending against the provisions of the fifth section of this ordinance, he, she or they, upon conviction before the mayor or a justice of the peace, shall be sentenced or be punished by whipping, not exceeding

thirty-nine stripes, and the master or mistress of such slave, so offending, shall, upon the second conviction of the slave for a similar offence, and upon every subsequent conviction thereafter, be required to pay a fine not exceeding twenty dollars, and on failure of the master or mistress of such slave to pay said fine, the said slave shall be punished by further whipping in thirty-nine stripes, but, if the said slave be owned by a non-resident, then such slave shall no longer be permitted to reside in this town, and he or she shall be committed to the work-house, for a period not exceeding thirty days, and punished by whipping not exceeding thirty-nine stripes, upon every conviction of a neglect or refusal to remain without the limits of this corporation. *Ordinances of the Corporation of Georgetown*, 1845, *August 22d*, *Sect.* 5, 6.

CHAPTER CIII.

PROHIBITION OF ASSEMBLAGES OF COLORED PERSONS.

From this time forth, all assemblages, by day or night, of black or colored persons, within the limits of this town, except meetings for religious instruction, conducted by and under the superintendence and control of white men, appointed by either or any of the established churches of the town, and terminated and dispersed at or before the hour of half-past nine o'clock P. M., and except such other meetings as shall be specially allowed by the mayor, be and the same are hereby prohibited, and every black or colored person, being a slave or servant for a term of years, that shall hereafter offend against this provision, shall be liable to be punished with any number of stripes not exceeding thirty-nine, or if free, to be committed to the work-house for any number of days, not exceeding thirty, or be fined in a sum not exceeding thirty dollars. *Ordinances of the Corporation of Georgetown*, 1845, *August 22d*, *Sect.* 8.

CHAPTER CIV.

PUNISHMENT OF DISORDERLY COLORED PERSONS.

Any free negro or mulatto person, violating any of the enactments of this ordinance, not herein specially provided for, or in any other way disturbing the public quiet and repose, or who shall encourage or incite any other free negro or mulatto or slave to disturb the public quiet and safety shall be deemed and adjudged to be a disorderly person, and upon conviction thereof before the mayor or justice of the peace, shall be punished by confinement in the work-house not more than thirty days, or shall forfeit and pay a sum of money not exceeding twenty dollars; and whenever any mulatto or colored persons, being free, shall so conduct themselves as to be found by the night-watch or police, in any of the public streets, lanes or alleys of the town, after the hour of eleven o'clock P. M., without

written consent of the mayor, or of the person in whose service they are employed, and he, she or they shall fail to give the mayor or justice of the peace, before whom they shall be taken for examination, a satisfactory reason for such conduct, every such person may be adjudged a disorderly person, and shall forfeit and pay a sum of money not exceeding two dollars, or be confined at the work-house for a period not exceeding twelve days, and all slaves, who shall and may be found guilty of the like disorder, shall be punished by whipping not exceeding ten stripes, unless the owner or owners of such slave shall immediately pay a fine not exceeding two dollars in lieu thereof. *Ordinances of the Corporation of Georgetown*, 1845, *August 22d*, *Sect.* 10, 11.

CHAPTER CV.

PUNISHMENT OF SLAVES FOR SITTING, STANDING OR LYING UPON THE BENCHES OR STALLS OF THE MARKET HOUSE.

It shall be unlawful for any slave to sit, stand or lie upon any of the benches or stalls of the Market House, either during the day or night season, and upon conviction thereof, before any tribunal competent to try the same, he or she shall be punished by inflicting not more than ten stripes, unless the owner of such slave, or some other person, shall pay a fine of one dollar, in lieu thereof. *Ordinances of the Corporation of Georgetown*, 1845, *November 4th*, *Sect.* 3.

NOTE.

The author of the present work has nearly completed for publication, the *Black Code* of each of the States of the Union. That of Maryland will next make its appearance.

City of Washington, Nov. 1st, 1848.

BUSINESS CARD.

WORTHINGTON G. SNETHEN,

(LATE SOLICITOR OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE),

ATTORNEY AND COUNSELLOR AT LAW,

WASHINGTON CITY, D.C.

Practises in the Supreme Court of the United States, and in the Courts of Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia, and

ACTS AS AGENT

for persons having business with Congress, the War, Treasury, Navy, and General Post Office Departments, the General Land Office, Pension Office, Office of Indian Affairs, Patent Office, &c., &c.

A LIST OF THE LAWS,

forming the Black Code

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES—ARTICLE I, SECT. 8.

LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES.

1790, July 16, Sect. 1.
1801, February 27, Sect. 1.
1801, March 3, Sect. 6.
1802, May 3, Sect. 7.
1805, March 3, Sect. 12.
1809, March 3, Sect. 3.
1820, May 1, Sect. 8.
1831, March 2, Sect. 14, 15, 16, 17, 18.

LAWS OF MARYLAND.

1715, Ch. 19, Sect. 5.
1715, Ch. 44, Sect. 7, 11, 12, 13, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 32.
1717, Ch. 13, Sect. 2, 3, 5, 6.
1719, Ch. 2, Sect. 2, 3.
1723, Ch. 15, Sect. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7.
1723, Ch. 16, Sect. 10.
1728, Ch. 4, Sect. 2, 3.
1729, Ch. 4, Sect. 2.
1737, Ch. 2, Sect. 4, 5, 6.
1748, Ch. 19, Sect. 2, 3, 4.
1751, Ch. 14, Sect. 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12.
1753, Ch. 9, Sect. 3, 4.
1753, Ch. 26, Sect. 2, 3.
1763, Ch. 13, Sect. 2, 3.

1766, Ch. 6.
1780, Ch. 24, Sect. 17.
1787, Ch. 17, Sect. 3.
1787, Ch. 33, Sect. 1, 2, 3.
1789, Ch. 5, Sect. 3.
1789, Ch. 23, Sect. 6.
1791, December 19, Sect. 2.
1795, Ch. 82, Sect. 2.
1796, Ch. 67, Sect. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23
1797, Ch. 15, Sect. 2, 3.
1797, Ch. 56, Sect. 1, 2.
1798, Ch. 39, Sect. 2, 3.
1798, Ch. 76, Sect. 1, 2.

ORDINANCES OF THE CORPORATION OF WASHI

1809, December 9, Sect. 3.
1816, February 29, Sect. 3.
1817, July 2.
1819, October 26, Sect. 3.
1821, July 10, Sect. 3.
1821, July 12, Sect. 1, 3.
1823, April 5, Sect. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5.
1826, June 8.
1826, July 26, Sect. 1, 2.
1826, October 12, Sect. 1, 2.
1827, May 31, Sect. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6,
1829, January 9, Sect. 1.
1829, April 2.
1829, June 4, Sect. 2.
1830, July 24.
1830, September 23, Sect. 3, 4.
1831, July 28, Sect. 1.
1832, November 5, Sect. 8.
1834, October 6, Sect. 1, 2, 3.
1835, March 17, Sect. 1, 2.
1836, October 29, Sect. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5.
1836, November 9, Sect. 1, 2.
1838, March 12.
1841, October 12, Sect. 23.
1843, December 21, Sect. 3.
1845, May 26, Sect. 18, 19.
1847, October 28.
1847, November 11.
1848, April 25.

ORDINANCES OF THE CORPORATION OF GEORGETOWN.

1795, August	4,	Sect. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8.
1796, October	10,	Sect. 2.
1800, August	1,	Sect. 1, 2.
1801, October	24,	Sect. 2.
1806, July	19,	Sect. 8.
1810, September	19,	Sect. 3, 4, 5.
1814, April	2,	Sect. 1, 2.
1814, June	14,	Sect. 1.
1821, February	24.	
1825, December	17,	Sect. 1, 2, 3, 4.
1827, June	23,	Sect. 1, 2, 3.
1831, January	22,	Sect. 23.
1835, March	28,	Sect. 1, 2.
1840, May	16.	
1845, August	22,	Sect. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11.
1845, November	4,	Sect. 3.

KFD
1611
.A3
1848

KFD1611 .A3 1848 C.1
The black code of the District
Stanford University Libraries
3 6105 036 694 151

CECIL H. GREEN LIBRARY
STANFORD UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES
STANFORD, CALIFORNIA 94305-6004
(650) 723-1493
grncirc@sulmail.stanford.edu
All books are subject to recall.

DATE DUE

JAN 01 2002
JUL 01 2003
JUL 04 2002
OCT 01 2003
OCT 01 2003